

## **The LIES and DECEIPT as stated by STEVE KURMUS of DTE**

- 1. There are 65 Million devices installed across the United States with no reported issues with health and security.**

**Issues that are reported to MPSC, DTE.** The Attorney General, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, have not been dealt with. They have been responded to by these departments with form letters stating that DTE, according to their internal regulation 460.137, gives them the authority to shut off power if they are not allowed to install the AMI meter. There are countless letters sent to these agencies with little to no results. See attached letter. Examples of 100's of letters sent and responded to can be provided upon request, contact John Tatar 734-968-4715.

See article: a. "Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity from Microwave Technology Finally Medically Proven"  
b. "Cellphone Radiation Exposure fact sheet Draft Released By California Health Officials"  
c. "Detroit Native Sun"

- 2. In fact Canada has now 100% installation of AMI meters with no complaints.**

This is a bold faced lie: Many cities in Canada as well as some in the U.S. have stopped deployment of smart meters and have recalled smart meters.

See articles: a. "Sask Power to remove 105,000 smart meters following fires"  
b. "Thousands of smart meters in Ontario to be removed over safety worries"  
c. "Nevada County: Remove Smart Meters"  
d. "Smart Meter Removal Has Begun"  
e. " Privacy on the Smart Grid"

- b. The majority of AMI meters are installed in a majority of countries in the world except for Antarctica.**

In Europe the "smart meter" is a European Union policy. All those in the EU are under obligation to deploy the smart meter. Yet Germany has put a halt on it.

See article: "Smart meters, Sluggish Policy? Germany Rejects Fast Smart Meter Rollout."

- c. DTE experiences that AMI improves the quality of electricity and gas service to our customers.**

An explanation of how a meter reading device can improve the quality of electricity and gas service to "our customers" is an oxymoron. The smart

meter cannot improve electricity or gas just the billing and accounting of energy used, maybe, but the quality of the electricity or gas being provided is a lie.

**A) The difference between AMI and Analog is that AMI allows wireless communication between customer and utility company.**

This is perhaps the only true statement made by Steven Kurmus. As far as quality of electricity, gas or cheaper utilities is a lie. The smart meter benefits only the utility companies, and in no way the consumer/citizen.

**B) To replace meter readers and grid automation and improving overall service to customers in reliability of our grid.**

How does the meter that reads “only usage” of electricity improve the overall reliability of the grid? Again this statement has nothing to do with grid improvements.

**C) As of today 3.1 Million of our customers have chosen to embraces the ideas of technology.**

This is totally a lie! There are many customers who are, to this date, unaware of “smart meters”. They are totally unaware that they have had a smart meter installed on their home. A simple survey would easily reveal this lie.

**D) 99.7% of our customers are satisfied with our meter up grades.**

This is another lie. There are many that are not aware of the technology being imposed upon them. May people look to government for protection of their God given rights and believe in the “tooth fairy” that the United States Government and the Government of Michigan can do no wrong in America. Many people do not believe that utilities/power can be disconnected because someone does not want new technology in their homes, yet the truth bears this out.

**E) However we have offered with those customers who are uncomfortable with our technology “opt-out of our AMI service. We’ve had some 8,000 people Opt-out and we have a tariff to support that.**

Please see the MPSC Order June 28, 2013, bottom paragraph of page 6 that allows customers to keep their electro-mechanical meters. This is what sets up the tariff base that DTE and Consumers Energy charges to customers. However, DTE has stated that this ruling only applies to Consumers and not to DTE. So where does DTE have

the ability to charge the tariff base fees for the opt-out non-transmitting meter. The tariff was so Consumers could keep an inventory and testing platforms for the electro-mechanical meter, not the non-transmitting smart meter. This is the "Old shell game" being played on the citizens of Michigan.

### **3. Diving into the issues according to Steve Kurmus.**

- A) In privacy- we believe that AMI has improved privacy of our customers, because we no longer send employees to the customer's backyard.**

See: "Smart Meter Companies Admit: We're Spying On You"  
"Is Your Smart Meter Spying On You?"  
"Privacy o the Smart Grid"

- B) What we record is nothing but consumption-exactly what we recorded it prior to the AMI. It is the same information you can gather by standing next to the meter and reading the meter.**

See: articles above- - the truth is that all appliances have an electrical signature that is recorded on the usage log of the "smart meter", any master electrician will verify that. The "smart meter" is a mini computer that records all data and sends it to a central location where it is stored.

- C) We cannot tell what appliance is running or who's at home or who's not at home.**

See: above articles., DTE may or may not be set up at this time to record and store all the information recorded. But technology is not that far away from this ability. When this technology becomes available who will then stop it. Will we know when this will happen? Or will the legal community state that- - since you did not raise the issue before it is too late to raise it now.

- D) RF signals are very low lower than cell phone, Wi-Fi hundred times less in strength than those devices.**

Radiation is dangerous no matter how low it is. It is accumulative, and we are presently in a soup of Micro Wave radiation from cell phones, cell towers, wi fi, and smart meters. In many cases cell phones, micro wave, wi fi can be avoided. Smart meters cannot. There has been no Federal Environment Impact Studies conducted to date by the energy companies. The issue of impact on health to the human body is not known. Long term study is needed. Is this another smoking, asbestos, Flint water

crises waiting to happen? We are all electrical beings. What effects does another electrical impulse have on our life. Some are very sensitive. They are the canary in the coal mine telling us of the dangers that we are not paying attention to.

**E) The AMI meter only broadcast a few seconds a day.**

This is another lie. Smart meters broadcast several times a minute.

**F) The opt out meter shuts off both RF transmitters.**

There have been customers who have proved this statement false.

**G) The old meters are no longer made.**

This statement is not true because people can purchase meters over the internet. Also Representative Gary Glenn has a solution for that. "Someone will pick up the ball and produce them" New industry and more jobs in Michigan.

4. **Yes. DTE imposes technology on people. The example given is the rotary phone is no longer operational and a pushbutton phone is required. Another example is that the analog TV no longer exists and changes were made to a digital TV.**

This statement is also a lie. I personally do not have a digital TV, nor do I care to receive broadcasts of this nature. **Freedom of Choice.** Also Representative LaFave proved Steve Kurmus statement false about the rotary phone.

5. **DTE informs the people that they will be in the area and installing the AMI meter, and that the people can opt out for a fee.**

Some customers were informed, some were not. Some people are still unaware that a smart meter was installed on their home.

6. **Representative Barrett questions DTE:**

**Q1) Who sets the cost of opt out services?**

**A1) MPSC everyone receives a \$10 discount in their electrical service. See: the MPSC Order attached**

**Q2) Do you notify people of the installation of smart meter?** Again some were informed some were not, some are still unaware of a smart meter on their home.

**A2) Yes, by a series of letters, and we put door hangers on the doors.**

Some people received letters after the install of the smart meter.

**7. Representative Cole questions DTE:**

**Q1) What type of information can be collected by the AMI meter?**

**A1) Only consumption. Frequencies, voltage, operational factors that have no importance to the consumer.**

All appliances have frequencies and voltage requirements. Some electrical appliances have certain operational factors. **ALL IMPORTANT TO DTE.** Not necessarily important to the consumer. These frequencies and voltage requirements are recorded on the smart meter.

See: "Privacy on the Smart Grid"

"EFF: Data Collected From Utility Smart Meters Should Be Protected By The Fourth Amendment"

**8. Representative LaFave questions DTE:**

**Q1) How many people have been shut off?**

**A1) Just a handful.**

Another Big LIE by Steven Kurnmus

See: attached list of shut offs and abuses of DTE and Consumers Energy on the Citizens of Michigan

**Q2) I can't customers just keep their meters that are working just fine?**

**A2) DTE believes that the digital provides more service and safer service. We made a decision a few years ago, and we have to pull in the old meters and recalibrate**

**them every so often.**

The traditional analog meters are good for 30+ years, whereas the new smart meter has to be replaced every 5 years. Where is the benefit? Who is paying for it?

See: "Changes are coming to your insurance policy"

**9. Representative Lower questions DTE:**

**Q1) Based on your testimony you say that you are not collecting data other than usage anyway. If that is the case, would you support codifying the state law in a bill, saying that you could not collect any other data, besides usage?**

**A1) From the customer's side of the meter. Yes.**

This sly DTE Employee Steve Kurmus states- - "from the customers side" no problem with codifying the state law." BUT WHAT ABOUT FROM THE UTILITIES SIDE?????

**PLEASE BE SURE THAT Bill 4220 INCLUDES CLEAR STATEMENT COVERING WATER METERS AND GAS METERS.**

NO ONE IN AMERICA, MICHIGAN SHOULD BE FORCED BY A MONOPLY COMPANY TO TAKE THEIR TECHNOLOGY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES or suffer the consequences!!!

Respectively submitted

John J. Tatar  
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Oneifbyland.org

Date (letter 1)

FROM:

TO: Mr. Gerald Anderson, Chief Executive Officer  
DTE Energy Company  
One Energy Plaza  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

TO: MR. Joseph A. McCormick, Manager, Advanced Metering Program, DTE or his  
replacement  
DTE Energy Company  
One Energy Plaza  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

TO: Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
ATTN: Ms Valerie J.M. Brader, Executive Director  
7109 W. Saginaw Highway  
P.O. Box 30221  
Lansing, MI 48909

TO: Aric Y. Nesbitt, 66<sup>th</sup> District Michigan Representative  
26962 Lake Dr.  
Lawton, MI 49065-7665

RE: DTE's attempt to co-opted my cooperation to change my electric meter to the "advanced meter program, smart meter". Letter dated December 29, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very disappointed by the letter sent to me by DTE. An unsigned letter is not a letter. I do not follow letters that do not have signatures. Further, I hope you understand that R 460.137, is not LAW. It is a rule or regulation that is an internal guideline written for DTE's operational use only. This rule is not law, and has no power or effect on a Citizen living in the "de jure" Republic(s). Furthermore the rule that you quoted as your source of authority is void for vagueness. The real law that you must follow as a "public functionary" is the United States Constitution, The Constitution of the State of Michigan, Michigan Compiled Laws, and above all the U.S. Supreme Court decisions, in particular *Norton v Shelby County*, 118 US 425 (1886).

The United States Constitution establishes that all "public functionaries" operate within the Republic(s). Article 4 Section 4 guarantees a Republican form of government. All "public

functionaries" are sworn to support and defend this Republic, anything to the contrary is "treason". In a Republic, the people are in charge, I am in charge, not the "public functionaries" not the public utilities. I do not volunteer to accept the "smart meter".

Our Michigan Attorney General, Bill Schuette, stated in an article of the Detroit Free Press of Thursday, February 27, 2014,

**"Constitutions are not meant to be convenient; they are meant to be followed. I am not a cafeteria Constitution attorney general, picking and choosing which law or which article to uphold or ignore. My job is to defend the constitution of the United States and the State of Michigan. I will faithfully discharge my duty, and that means opposing this end-run of the Constitution."**  
(emphasis added)

The Constitution of the State of Michigan's Preamble further states,

**We, the people of the State of Michigan, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom, and earnestly desiring to secure these blessings undiminished to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution.**

**No where** does it say that we the people may be forced or threatened to do something we choose not to do. That includes accepting your advanced metering device under any circumstances. You cannot force this advanced metering device upon me if it has no benefit to enhance the Republic.

Further MCL 750.539(d) states- -

**"Use of Device for Recording Events in a Private Place; Distribution of Such Recording, is Punishable by 2-5 years in prison".**

A simple reading of Agenda 21 and ICLIE state that this device will be installed to "control the use of all energy" in America. That the "smart star" appliances will be read by this "smart meter" that you are attempting to install.

Further MCL 750.539(a) states- -

**"Overhearing" private disclosure" without consent of parties engaged in the discourse is punishable by up to 2 years in prison".**

Further MCL 750.539(a). MCL 720.41(h) & 411(i)



“Willful (person intends to frighten or harass victim) course of conduct involving “unconsented contact” with “another individual” that would make a reasonable person feel frightened or harassed, and that actually causes the victim to feel frightened or harassed. Punishable by up to 1 year in prison,; up to 5 years if “credible threat of death”

Further MCL 750.411(s)- -

“ Posting information, whether truthful or untruthful, about a victim, through any means of communications (including the Internet or a computer), that the person knows could result in “unconsented contact” with “another individual,” that is intended to cause conduct that would make a person feel frightened or harassed, that would make a reasonable person feel frightened or harassed and that actually causes the victim to feel frightened or harassed is punishable by up to 2 years in prison.”

MPSC and DTE are threatening me, to frighten or harass me to “voluntarily” consent to the imposition of your advanced metering device. I DO NOT CONSENT!!!

The last point I will raise is that the United States Supreme Court, in their decision, which by the way is the supreme law of the land, *Norton v Shelby County* 118, US 425 (1886) states how “public functionaries” are required to act in a Republic so long as the Constitution has life and power, see *Norton*, supra 443. DTE at this point as well as the MPSC are acting as “usurpers” and therefore do not exist, see *Norton*, supra. We live in a “de jure” Republic. The MPSC was to be set up as a “de jure” office, to regulate the “public utilities co” for the benefit of We the People. When you step outside of the “de jure” authority and responsibilities of your sworn duties, you are “usurpers”. *Norton* on page 442 states- -

“An unconstitutional act is not a law; it confers no rights; it imposes no duties; it affords no protection; it creates no office; it is, in legal contemplation, as inoperative as though it had never been passed”.

Your actions are unconstitutional, this statement as well as the entire *Norton* case states that you Mr. Quackenbush, Chairmen of the MPSC , MS Stephanie William of the MPSC, and You Mr. McCormick, of the Advanced Metering Team and You DTE- CEO Gerald Anderson can and will be held personally liable for violations of my constitutionally protected rights, when you step outside the authority of your “de jure” office.

My last point is taken from *Hale v Henkel*, 201 US 43 (1906) - -

“...we are of the opinion that there is a clear distinction in this particular between an individual and a corporation, and that the latter has no right to refuse to submit its books and papers for an examination at the suit of the State. The individual may stand upon his constitutional rights as a citizen. He is entitled to carry on his private business in his own way. His power to contract is unlimited. He owes no duty to the State or to his neighbors to divulge his business, or to open his doors to an investigation, so far as it may tend to criminate him. He owes no such duty to the State, since he receives nothing there from beyond the protection of his life and property. His rights are such as existed by the law of the land long antecedent to the organization of the State, and can only be taken from him by due process of law, and in accordance with the Constitution... He owes nothing to the public so long as he does not trespass upon their rights.”

“Upon the other hand, the corporation is a creature of the State. It is presumed to be incorporated for the benefit of the public. It receives certain special privileges and franchises, and holds them subject to the laws of the State and the limitations of its charter. Its powers are limited by law. It can make no contract not authorized by its charter. Its rights to act as a corporation are only preserved to it so long as it obeys the laws of its creation.”

Based upon your unsigned letter, I can only come to the conclusion that you are not operating as a “de jure” corporation.

I will be awaiting for your response concerning the issues contained herein, within 30 day from your receipt of this letter. All correspondence from you concerning this matter will be done in writing!!

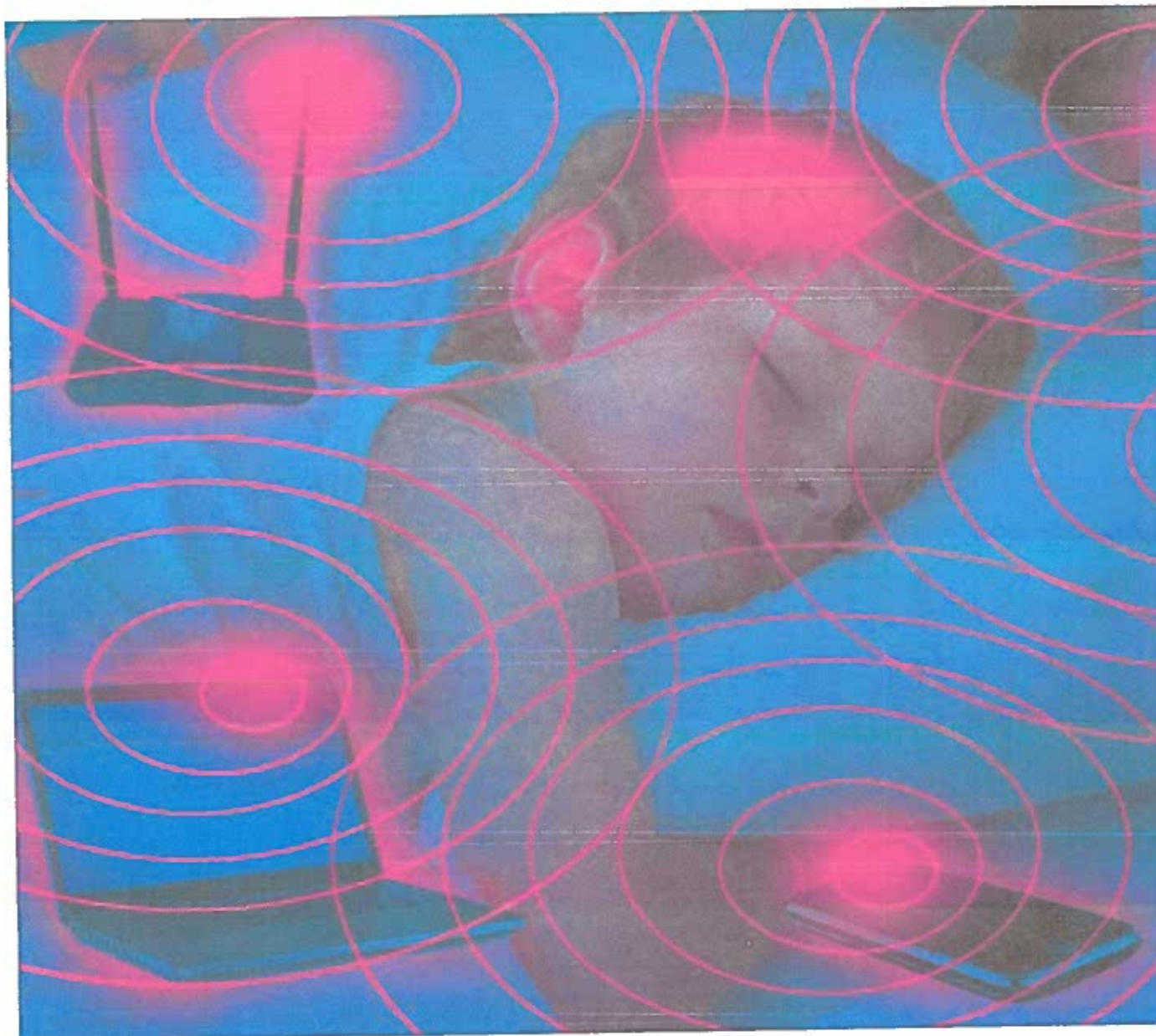
I am preparing at this time to file into court a Complaint identifying you individually as Defendants for being “usurpers” and negligence of your duties to the American Citizens.

Respectively submitted,

Anna Kjerrumguard

# 1

## Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity from Microwave Technology Finally Medically Proven



By [Catherine J. Frompovich](#)

Finally, there's documented medical proof that electromagnetic hypersensitivity is a real-time health issue that actually can be verified using standard medical procedures and testing capabilities.

An international group of researchers agreed it when they published their findings from the clinical study "[Metabolic and Genetic Screening of Electromagnetic Hypersensitive Subjects as a Feasible Tool for Diagnostics and Intervention](#)" in the November 2014 issue of Mediators of Inflammation.

So, the million-dollar-question has to be, "When will utility companies get up to speed on the latest in microwave technology damage to the human body?" Also, "When will public utility commissions nationwide institute proper procedures to protect consumers from such damage?"

Pennsylvanians currently are being bombarded by non-thermal health problems from public utility companies' electric, natural gas and water Smart Meters, which operate using microwave technology.

Furthermore, the PA House Consumer Affairs Committee Chair Robert Godshall sits on Opt-Out Bills that will permit electrosensitive consumers and others to keep safe analog meters, which have been in use for decades.

Below is the Press Release Pennsylvania Smart Meter Awareness (PASMA) released November 19, 2015, which discusses pertinent issues to EHS and Smart Meters.

#### **MEDICAL STUDIES CONFIRM ELECTROMAGNETIC HYPERSENSITIVITY: ARE UTILITY SMART METERS CAUSING HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR PENNSYLVANIANS?**

Electromagnetic hypersensitivity, or electrosensitivity (EHS), is a condition affecting more and more individuals who are exposed to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and radiofrequencies (RFs) from radios, televisions, Wi-Fi, "dirty electricity" coming over household wires from utility companies smart meters (SMs), microwaves, photocopiers, plus cell phones and towers. Worldwide, the numbers of people affected by EMFs and RFs increase exponentially, and add to other environmentally sensitivity-related illnesses such as multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), sick building syndrome, Persian Gulf War veteran syndrome, and amalgam disease.

In Pennsylvania, children's and adults' health is being harmed by electric, natural gas, and water utility companies' smart meters!

The World Health Organization (WHO), in a December 2005 Background paper, stated:

EHS is characterized by a variety of non-specific symptoms that differ from individual to individual. The symptoms are certainly real and can vary widely in their severity. Whatever its cause, EHS can be a disabling problem for the affected individual. [...] For EHS individuals with long lasting symptoms and severe handicaps, therapy should be directed principally at

reducing symptoms and functional handicaps. This should be done in close co-operation with a



qualified medical specialist (to address the medical and psychological aspects of the symptoms) and a hygienist (to identify and, if necessary, control factors in the environment that are known to have adverse health effects of relevance to the patient).

Treatment should aim to establish an effective physician-patient relationship, help develop strategies for coping with the situation and encourage patients to return to work and lead a normal social life.

WHO published online information about that workshop on electromagnetic hypersensitivity in 2004 [here](#).

PASMA wants to remind the Pennsylvania state legislature and the PA Public Utility Commission (PUC) that EHS is a harmful health—and even-life-threatening—issue for those affected, which utility companies are remiss about, in understanding that harm, by denying that such effects are medically proven and that SM-caused EHS cannot—and will not—be mediated by replacing AMI SMs with EMF-free analog meters, which were used safely for decades, and which other states' utility companies are allowing. The control factor in the environment relevant to many EHS problems is traceable to the installation of smart meters on home properties.

PASMA further wants to point out what the WHO stated at the EMF workshop, which utilities, the PA legislature and PA PUC need to implement: *help develop strategies for coping with the situation and encourage patients to return to work and lead a normal social life.*

For those EHS individuals impacted by SMs, legal opt-outs from SMs are a necessary ethical and medical exception to PA 129, and must be granted. SM-induced health issues are serious matters, which need to be addressed intelligently by state officials, and very soon, as too many Pennsylvanians cannot lead normal lives due to Smart Meters.

PASMA respectfully directs PA legislators and the PA PUC to clinical studies in the journal *Mediators of Inflammation* Volume 2014, Article ID 924184, where researchers published their results regarding EHS.



In their clinical study “Metabolic and Genetic Screening of Electromagnetic Hypersensitive Subjects as a Feasible Tool for Diagnostics and Intervention” published as an open access article, they say,

Till now, no causal relationship between electromagnetic fields exposure and onset of clinical symptoms has been clearly proven. [...]

“The profiles of metabolic parameters’ alteration observed in EHS subjects were comparable to those of the “pure MCS” group, though generally less pronounced (Figures 5–8). Similarly to those MCS patients self-reportedly nonelectrosensitive, the EHS cohort showed a highly significant-versus-control decrease in the erythrocyte GST activity and an increase in GPX activity levels (Figure 5), coupled with a marked decrease of GSH levels (Figure 6). [...]

A second parameter proved to be significantly different () between EHS and MCS groups that is the ratio omega-6/omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids in the erythrocyte membrane phospholipid fraction (Figure 7(c)). [...]

Further developments must necessarily include a more objective and standardized classification of individual electromagnetic sensitivity scores, to conclusively assess the proposed parameters as a distinctive and specific panel of disease biomarkers for EHS. Our findings will hopefully contribute, in combination with the so-far putative genetic-risk factors, a better molecular definition of environmental-borne sensitivity-related illnesses and a tool to discriminate single SRI comorbidities, based on sufficiently proven molecular evidences able to gain clinical consensus.

Smart Meter technology is based on microwaves, which is damaging the health of Pennsylvanians; has to be corrected by the PA legislature and PA PUC, since it’s counter to and, undoubtedly, violates the Nuremberg Code, including the Third Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states: “The right of the people to be secure in their persons...shall not be violated.”

Certainly, Pennsylvania’s children’s and adults’ health status is being compromised and violated 24/7/365 from EMFs, RFs, and the dirty electricity produced by Smart Meters.



**Resource:**

Mediators of Inflammation Volume 2014 (2014), Article ID 924184, 14 pages  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1155/2014/924184>

Image: [Dees Illustration](#)

*Catherine J Frompovich ([website](#)) is a retired natural nutritionist who earned advanced degrees in Nutrition and Holistic Health Sciences, Certification in Orthomolecular Theory and Practice*

plus Paralegal Studies. Her work has been published in national and airline magazines since the early 1980s. Catherine authored numerous books on health issues along with co-authoring papers and monographs with physicians, nurses, and holistic healthcare professionals. She has been a consumer healthcare researcher 35 years and counting.

Catherine's latest book, published October 4, 2013, is [Vaccination Voodoo, What YOU Don't Know About Vaccines](#), available on Amazon.com.

Her 2012 book [A Cancer Answer, Holistic BREAST Cancer Management, A Guide to Effective & Non-Toxic Treatments](#), is available on Amazon.com and as a Kindle eBook.

Two of Catherine's more recent books on Amazon.com are [Our Chemical Lives And The Hijacking Of Our DNA, A Probe Into What's Probably Making Us Sick](#) (2009) and [Lord, How Can I Make It Through Grieving My Loss, An Inspirational Guide Through the Grieving Process](#) (2008)

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# Cellphone Radiation Exposure Fact Sheet Draft Released By California Health Officials

March 2, 2017 9:11 PM

**Filed Under:** [California's Department of Public Health](#), [cellphone radiation](#), [draft document](#), [Exposure](#), [Health Officials](#), [Joel Moskowitz](#)

SAN FRANCISCO (CBS SF) — After keeping it hidden for years, California's Department of Public Health has released a draft document outlining health officials' concerns about cellphone radiation exposure.

**ALSO READ:** [Berkeley's Cellphone Radiation Warning Law Disputed Before Appeals Court](#)

The [previously unpublished document](#) was released this week after a judge indicated she would order the documents be disclosed in the case Moskowitz v. CDPH.

Joel Moskowitz, Ph.D., who is the director of the Center for Family and Community Health at UC Berkeley's School of Public Health, sued the state in 2016 under the California Public Records Act to get the document released.

The document is dated April 2014, but [Moskowitz says](#) the document was originally prepared seven years ago and updated several times, but never released to the public.

**ALSO READ:** [Court: California Officials' Emails On Private Accounts Are Public Records](#)

He previously told KPIX 5 why he decided to sue the state.

"I would like this document to see the light of day because it will inform the public that there is concern within the California Department of Public Health that cellphone radiation is a risk, and it will provide them with some information about how to reduce those risks," Moskowitz.

The two-page document, which the Department of Public Health first emailed to the San Francisco Chronicle on Thursday afternoon, looks like any other fact sheet released by the state, except that this one has, in big bold letters "Draft and Not for Public Release" stamped across the pages.

**ALSO READ:** [Bay Area Trump Supporters Remain Pleased Despite Controversies](#)

Among the information in the document, which is titled simply, Cell Phones and Health, are summaries of scientific studies that suggest long-term cellphone use may increase the risk of brain cancer, among other health problems.



The draft fact sheet states that radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMFs), a type of radiation, are emitted from cellphones and that because they are “used frequently and kept close to the head and body, cellphone EMFs can affect nearby cells and tissues.”

In the draft fact sheet, state health officials list their recommendations for members of the public who wish to reduce their exposure to the radiation emitted from cellphones, but state that as more studies are done the recommendations on the fact sheet may change.

**ALSO READ:** [San Francisco Signs Immigrant Protection Memo With Mexican Consular General](#)

Health officials’ overall recommendation is to “increase the distance between you and your phone” by using a headset, the speaker phone function and text messaging. Health officials recommend not sleeping near your phone and not carry it in your pocket or directly on your body, unless it is off.

The fact sheet also states that “EMFs can pass deeper into a child’s brain than and adult’s” so suggests parents limit their child’s cellphone use to texting, important call and emergencies.

But there are also some in Silicon Valley who say the science doesn’t support the fact sheet. David Witkowski leads Joint Venture Silicon Valley’s Wireless Communications Initiative and says “it’s very weak on details, references to existing peer-reviewed journals and studies...”

Moskowitz, however, is not yet satisfied.

He said with the release of the document, the CDPH has violated the Public Records Act, saying it “stamped new lettering in huge dark letters across the face of the document,” essentially creating a new document rather than producing the document as-is.

Moskowitz says, “that lettering states that the document is ‘draft and not for public release’ when the judge’s tentative ruling stated exactly the opposite — that the document was *not* a draft, and *must* be publicly released.”

*By Hannah Albarazi – Follow her on Twitter: [@hannahalbarazi](#).*

# Canadian Medical Association Journal reports Health Canada's wireless limits are "A Disaster to Public Health"

OTTAWA, May 7, 2015 /CNW/ - The Canadian Medical Association Journal today published a scathing condemnation of Health Canada's safety guidelines for cell phones and Wifi.

The Journal (CMAJ) interviewed multiple international experts in radiation and cancer, who warn that the microwave levels allowed in Canadian classrooms, residences and workplaces are, "a disaster to public health."

One scientist said that given the overwhelming evidence that wireless radiation is harmful, Health Canada staff are either, "unwilling or not competent to make evaluation of the current literature."

The article points out that Canada's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health recently completed three days of hearings on Canada's safety guidelines, and sent federal scientists back to the office to re-examine [140 recent studies](#) that show wireless radiation emitted by cell phones and WiFi can cause harm.

One oncologist interviewed by the CMAJ said that Canada's safety guidelines for wireless radiation need to be "urgently revised" due to the obvious risk of cancer.

The CMAJ article revealed that James McNamee, who wrote Health Canada's safety code, has also co-authored academic papers with scientists who openly accept payments from the wireless industry.

"That Canada's wireless safety code is out of date and mired in conflict of interest is no longer a question it's a fact," said Frank Clegg, CEO of Canadians For Safe Technology (C4ST).

"We're hoping the Parliamentary Standing Committee will have strong recommendations to fix it," said Clegg.

SOURCE C4ST: Canadians For Safe Technology

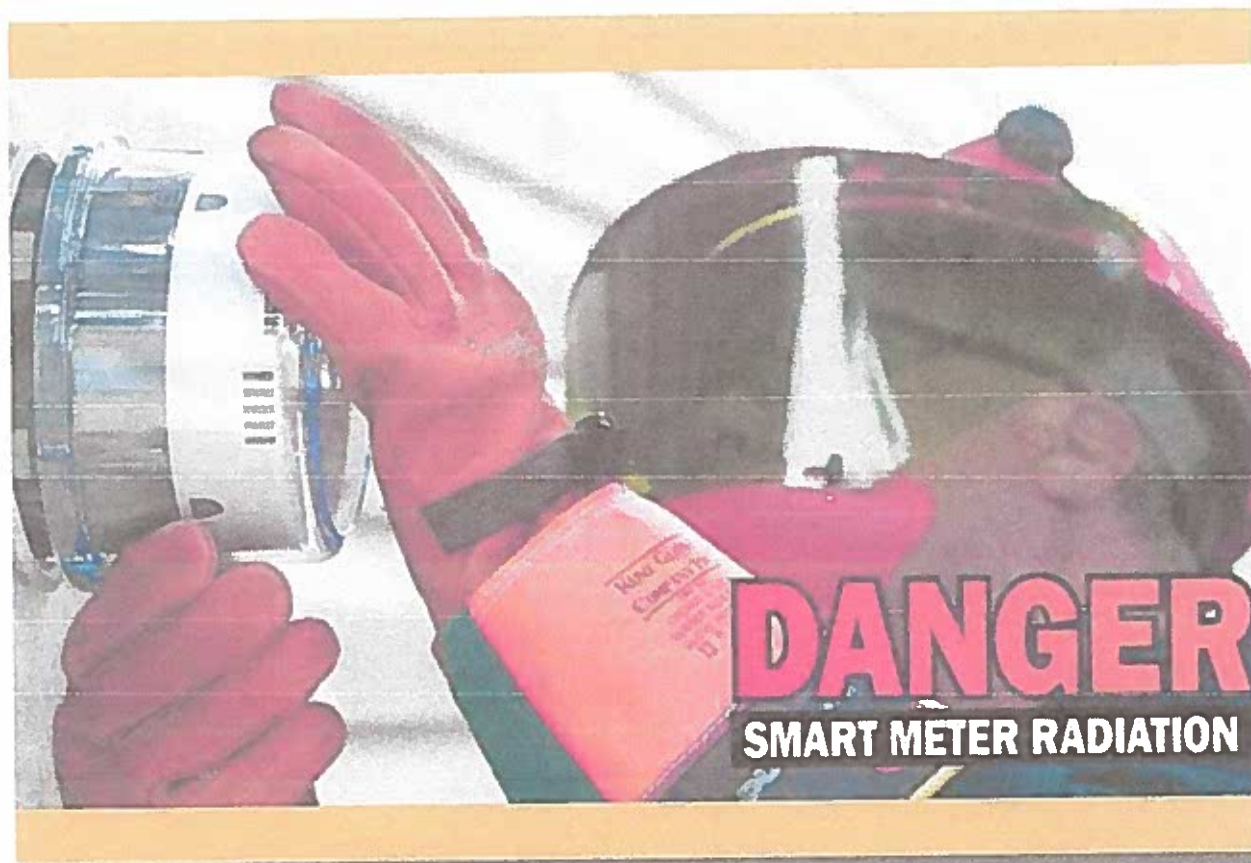
For further information: Interviews Frank Clegg, Contact: [media@C4ST.org](mailto:media@C4ST.org), Phone: 705-444-9662, Background: [www.c4st.org/HESA2015](http://www.c4st.org/HESA2015)

type="text/javascript">DM\_redirect("m.detroitnativesunonline.com");

# DETROIT NATIVE SUN

On line Edition

Enlightening the Community



## SUN EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Slowly Barbara Clark-Lewis struggled to lift her wobbly legs, one at a time, up the steps into her northwest Detroit home. Once inside, she called for an ambulance and was rushed back to Providence Hospital for the second time in a week.

"It felt like I had cement blocks on my feet," she explained. "I was unable to move."

The once active senior, who prided herself on walking several miles a day, lay motionless in a hospital bed, totally paralyzed,

and was soon flown by helicopter to the University of Michigan Hospital. She was diagnosed with Guillain–Barré syndrome, which she believes was caused by the installation of a Smart Meter.

“Smart meters were installed on my home between 2009 and 2010 without my knowledge. I was healthy and had never had any health problems prior to their installation. In 2010, I noticed that my feet were becoming very ashy. Applying lotion or Vaseline didn’t help. Next, I started having problems with my eyes and couldn’t distinguish a quarter from a nickel. My doctor wanted me to have a MRI. The technician over radiated my body. My back was arched. In 2011, I developed Guillain–Barré syndrome. It’s when your brain and muscles are disconnected. In 2014 or 2015, I learned about Smart Meters. When I called DTE to discuss my bill, a representative asked me if I wanted to opt out. I said yes. I thought that I would retain an analog meter. On the latest Smart Meter, it had a label that said ‘danger’. I began to research it and realized that it was (possibly) the cause of my sudden health problems.”

Others have reported experiencing similar health concerns.

“A woman got a rash immediately. When it was removed it went away. Some have all kinds of physical conditions,” recalls John Tatar, a Smart Meter expert, who provides the public with helpful news on the meters at [Oneifbyland.org](http://Oneifbyland.org). “One lady went to Lansing to testify that the first day the meter was installed, she had difficulty walking. The second day she walked with a cane. The third day she had a wheelchair. Her husband removed the meter and put the analog back on, and she started walking again.”

Advanced (Smart) meters are designed to help customers reduce energy use and monthly bills by accurately sending detailed energy usage through a radio frequency transmitter, eliminating the need for meter readers. Plans were developed under the Energy Act of 2005 and administered by the US Department of Energy, the FCC, and each state’s public utilities

commission (PUC). DTE Energy has installed nearly 4 million meters in the areas in which it serves.

"We are proud of this accomplishment, and (by the end of 2016) virtually all of our customers will have this excellent tool to manage their energy use and save money," said Ron May, DTE Energy executive vice president, Major Enterprise Projects in a press release. "With nearly 80 percent of the installations complete so far, we're focused on ensuring people understand the benefits of advanced meters and how to make the most out of this safe and secure technology."

Although DTE Energy and Consumers Power boast about the financial benefits to be had, many customers, like Lewis-Clark, complain about the health risks that may incur from radio frequency (RF) microwave radiation being continuously leaked from the meters.

According to the American Cancer Society, "RF radiation is classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), as 'possibly carcinogenic to humans.' This is based on the finding of a possible link in at least one study between cell phone use and a specific type of brain tumor. Because RF radiation is a possible carcinogen, and smart meters give off RF radiation, it is possible that smart meters could increase cancer risk. Still, it isn't clear what risk, if any there might be from living in a home with a smart meter."

While it's unknown if the meters causes cancer, the ACS says no studies have been performed to substantiate claims linking them to other health problems.

"Smart meters have not been studied to see if they cause health problems. Studies have looked at RF radiation from other sources. Exposure to large amounts of RF radiation, as from accidents involving radar, has resulted in severe burns. No other serious health problems have been reported," noted the ACS. "One concern expressed is that the RF waves produced by smart meters might interfere with electronic medical devices such as a heart pacemaker. A study that examined the effect of smart

meters on pacemakers and implantable defibrillators found that the smart meters did not interfere.”

Dr. David Carpenter MD, a graduate of Harvard Medical School and a public health physician who has worked in the area of electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and public health for over 18 years, agrees but says there are other reports that should be viewed and questions asked.

“What is the evidence that Smart Meters are safe and have no adverse health effects? The answer to that question is that there is no such evidence,” he says. “In fact, while no one has actually done human health studies in relation to people living in homes with Smart Meters, we have evidence from a whole variety of other sources of radio frequency exposure that demonstrate convincingly and consistently that exposure to radio frequency radiation at elevated levels for long periods of time increases the risk of cancer, increases the damage to the nervous system, causes electro sensitivity, has adverse reproductive effects, and a variety of other effects on different organs and systems. So there is no justification for the statement that Smart Meters have no adverse health effects. It should be up to each individual to identify whether or not they want to be continuously exposed, 24/7, to elevated levels of radio frequency radiation. Smart meter is for the benefit of the utility. It saves them money, because they don’t have to have people going out reading meters. It’s at the expense of the consumer, who has to live in this house with constant exposure. An informed person should demand that they be allowed to keep their analog meter.”

For those who do not want a Smart Meter, DTE offers residential customers an opt-out option.

“This approval allows residential customers of record the option of having a non-transmitting smart meter installed. The customer of record must call our Customer Service line at 800.477.4747 to request program enrollment,” notes DTE Energy on their website. “Customers who enroll in the Opt Out program are required to pay the following fees for each site enrolled in the program: \$67.20

initial one-time fee to install a non-transmitting smart meter and \$9.80 monthly charge.”

But, there are some like David Shelton, a Smart Meter opponent and expert, who are opting out of the opt-out meters, because they release “dirty electricity” as well.

“We kept the Smart Meters off our house. In august 2015, they turned our power off even though our bill was up to date,” he explains. “We’ve been running on a generator ever since. If you don’t take their meter, they’ll turn your power off. People have experience the same symptoms with the opt-out meter. They won’t let anyone keep the analog meter.”

Shelton and others have appealed to Michigan legislatures for assistance, but so far no action has been taken to stop utilities from forcing the public to install Smart Meters.

“We don’t think it’s legal (for them to force us to install Smart Meters). The Public Service Commission is practically in bed with the utilities they regulate. When they hire experts, they hire them from the industry they regulate,” added Shelton. “They will not stand up to DTE or Consumers Energy. They do whatever they want them to do. When they cut off somebody’s power, no one is there to help them. If they cut you off because you can’t pay your bill, there are all kinds of agencies to help you.”

However, Tatar is helping those with analog meters to protect themselves from utilities. He invented a special lock that has been successful in keeping them out.

“Someone asked me to develop a lock to keep DTE and Consumers Powers’ employees from opening the box to switch the meter out,” he said. “We had over 800 locks nationwide installed. DTE has threatened to shut people’s power off for not removing the locks. They shut the power off on 10 people, even though their bill was up to date.”

Meanwhile, Shelton continues to advocate for the right to use analog meters and has amassed much evidence to support his position.



"In 2011, I started fighting this battle. The home where I lived with my girlfriend in Oak Park received a notice from DTE stating we're coming to your home to install a new meter. I went on the internet and read about what's going on with them in California regarding the health effects. Between 3 to 5 percent of the public, experienced immediate health effects - sleeplessness, headaches, heart paginations," he explained. "They can no longer sleep in their own bed, because they're getting a high dose of radio frequency coming from the meters. They're sleeping in cars and putting tents in their backyards. They've become refugees in their own homes."

Many Michigan residents are refusing to become refugees in their own homes and are fighting back.

"I'm waiting on the attorney general, because the Justice Department stated it is with the state," adds Lewis-Clark. "There is a bill in the house that will give people the choice to opt out. I advise people to keep a diary. Do not sleep in the room, where the smart meter is located. If you're ill, get out. I'm not leaving my home, because of DTE. I've told the Justice Department that I want a criminal investigation into DTE. It's time for us to take back our power."



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# SaskPower to remove 105,000 smart meters following fires

**8 unexplained fires associated with new devices that measure power consumption**

[CBC News](#) Posted: Jul 30, 2014 2:53 PM CT Last Updated: Jul 31, 2014 11:20 AM CT



This smart meter on the side of a home in Saskatoon was destroyed by fire in an incident reported earlier this week. (Brad McNairn)

The Saskatchewan government has ordered its power utility SaskPower to remove 105,000 so-called smart meters installed at homes and businesses across the province, following concerns about eight unexplained fires associated with the units.

The minister responsible for the provincial Crown corporation, Bill Boyd, announced the move Wednesday.

"The concerns about safety are paramount here," Boyd told reporters in Regina. "The concerns are significant enough that we believe that any time that families are at risk here in Saskatchewan, actions have to be taken. That's why we've directed SaskPower accordingly."

- **SaskPower identifies 2 more smart meter failures**

The issues with the smart meters in Saskatchewan have prompted the city of Medicine Hat, Alta. to halt installations of its automated electricity meters as well.

- **Smart meter fires prompt Medicine Hat to halt switchover**

Questions about the meters surfaced in July when SaskPower announced it was investigating a handful of cases where newly installed meters malfunctioned. In all cases, the failures only affected the outside of a home and no one was hurt.

SaskPower had put its meter replacement program on hold while it investigated the fires. As of Monday, eight had been reported.

Bill Boyd, the minister responsible for SaskPower, said safety was his primary concern in ordering the removal of previously installed meters. (Ryan Pilon/CBC)

Boyd said it was still not known why the units failed.

Sensus Corporation, the company that supplied the meters, said in a statement to CBC News Wednesday that it has millions of meters operating safely across North America.

"We have no confirmation that the meter is the source [of the fire problems]," the statement said. "We are working with SaskPower to understand what specific events led to those issues and to determine the best course of action. The investigation is still underway."

Sensus is a multinational company servicing the utility industry with headquarters in the U.S. and operations around the world.

## **Cost of swap in the millions**

According to officials, it will take about six to nine months to swap out the meters already installed. That is expected to cost about \$90 per customer — \$45 for a different meter and \$45 for the work. That works out to around \$9.5 million for the entire province. SaskPower also has a cache of more than 100,000 new devices in storage that will not be used.

SaskPower had been planning on replacing about 500,000 meters with new smart meters. That program has been halted and the utility has been told to remove about 105,000 devices already installed. (CBC)

Later on Wednesday, SaskPower indicated it expected the overall cost of the recall could reach \$15 million. On Thursday, officials added that the cost already spent on the smart meter program was \$37 million.

It was not immediately clear who would cover the costs associated with the swap. Boyd said he hoped to recoup the money from the company that supplied the meters.

The minister also said SaskPower will conduct an internal review to examine how the company came to select Sensus meters for its system-wide replacement program.

"Certainly, the initial goals [of the replacement program] were right," Boyd said. "[To] provide a better meter, a better understanding of power usage of individual homes."

Boyd did not rule out the possibility of SaskPower using smart meters again some time in the future, but said their reintroduction would have to be carefully evaluated.

"We are not going to see these smart meters installed any time soon, that's for sure," he said. "We will continue to evaluate the technologies going forward. We'll continue to evaluate additional smart meters going forward and look at them in the context of Saskatchewan's climactic conditions to ensure that they will be absolutely safe."

**Sensus statement:**

"Be assured that there are no safety issues with Sensus electric meters that support today's decision by the provincial government of Saskatchewan.

Safety is our number one priority, and all Sensus meters are subject to rigorous testing and meet or exceed all industry safety standards.

We have no confirmation that the meter is the source. We are working with SaskPower to understand what specific events led to those issues and to determine the best course of action. The investigation is still underway.

Sensus underscores the critical importance of careful meter installation procedures, including the examination of meter boxes and wiring at installation, training of meter installers and the need to have rapid remedial action when field problems are observed.

There are approximately 10 million Sensus meters in North America operating safely and reliably."

The smart meters, which are manufactured by Sensus Corporation, allow SaskPower to bill customers for the power they use each month rather than relying on estimates between meter readings. The utility introduced the replacement program in October 2013.

## No changes for some Saskatoon residents

The government's move applies to customers of SaskPower throughout the province, but does not apply to parts of Saskatoon that receive service from that city's power and light utility. According to Saskatoon officials, their meter replacement program, which uses a different supplier, has not had any problems.

"We have not heard any reports of problems with the Elster brand meters," Kevin Hudson, a Saskatoon city official, said in a statement Wednesday.

Saskatoon has about 60,000 customers on its system and said half of them have new meters.

SaskPower had been planning to replace a total of 500,000 meters.

Among the features of the new meters was an ability to transmit power usage data through a radio frequency, making it unnecessary for a meter reader to enter a home. That feature had not been implemented for the new meters already installed but was part of the overall plan for the new technology.

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*Replay the live chat below, or if you'd like to weigh in, leave your thoughts in the comment section.*

Join online host Matt Kruchak from Monday to Friday between 6-8:45 a.m. on [cbc.ca/saskatoon](http://cbc.ca/saskatoon) for a lively and engaging live chat. While chatting, tune into Saskatoon Morning on 94.1 FM with host Leisha Grebinski.

- [On mobile? Replay the live chat here](#)

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## Related Stories



• **Smart meter installations on hold as SaskPower probes fires**  
Fires associated with the installation of new smart meters by SaskPower, the province's electric utility, have led to the program being put on hold while the company investigates.

## Thousands of smart meters in Ontario to be removed over safety worries

Some 5,400 of Ontario's 4.8 million smart meters are being removed and replaced because of a risk they could heat up, cause an electrical short and possibly spark a fire.

In Saskatchewan last summer, SaskPower removed a model of Sensus Corp. smart meter from homes and businesses after eight unexplained minor fires. (SaskPower)

By Robert Benzie Queen's Park Bureau Chief

Thu., Jan. 22, 2015

In another jolt to Ontario's troubled smart-meter program, 5,400 of the electricity conservation gauges are being removed due to a risk of fire.

The province's Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) announced Thursday that Sensus 3.2 smart meters equipped with a remote disconnect feature are affected.

"We're acting out of an abundance of caution," ESA president and CEO David Collie told reporters at Queen's Park, noting there are 4.8 million smart meters in Ontario.

"This particular meter is in very limited use," said Collie, noting while there are about 50,000 Sensus 3.2 meters in Ontario, the safety concerns are with only the remote-disconnect models usually installed in seasonal properties, such as trailer parks or summer cottages.

It's the latest snag to hit the controversial \$2-billion smart meter program, which auditor

# Nevada County: Remove Smart Meters

Petition by Heather Lane

To be delivered to Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Terri Andersen, Mayor, Nevada City, CA, Jennifer Ray, Vice Mayor, Nevada City, CA, Robert Bergman, Member, City Council, Nevada City, CA, Duane Strawser, Member, City Council, Nevada City, CA and 5 other targets ([click here to see more](#))

An immediate MORATORIUM on the further installation of of Smart Meters, Gateway Devices, and Tropos Devices throughout Nevada County, CA.

The immediate BAN/REMOVAL of all Smart Meters, Gateway Devices, and Tropos devices from Nevada County, CA.

Utility companies will replace Smart Meters with traditional analogue meters with no costs being levied on the utility customers for said replacement.

There are currently 161 signatures. NEW goal - We need 200 signatures!

## Petition Background

We, the members of Stop Smart Meters of Nevada County, and the undersigned citizens, assert the following:

Smart Meters, Gateway and/or Tropos devices are a hazard to the physical and mental health and safety of human beings, flora, and fauna ( plants and animals .) [ Gateway and/or Tropos devices for the purposes of this petition refers to: specific technological devices which aid in the transmission of Smart Meter communications and/or amplify/boost the power of Smart Meters.]; Peer reviewed science has demonstrated that children are especially vulnerable to the harmful forms of radiation emitted by Smart Meters, Gateway and/or Tropos devices;

Smart Meters, Gateway and /or Tropos devices and their installation have been partially or completely responsible for numerous fires across the United States and Canada which have resulted in the loss of human life, as well as the lives of animals, and have caused millions of dollars in property damage;

Smart Meters, Gateway and /or Tropos devices as they are interconnected and currently function have been proven to often misread utility customers' usage, and to artificially and arbitrarily inflate the bills of hundreds of utility customers;

Smart Meters, Gateway and /or Tropos devices have been proven to be susceptible to computer hacking, and could thus be used for Eco Terrorism;

Smart Meters, Gateway and /or Tropos devices transmit and report customers' private data without customers' consent;

The above illegally collected data is then subject to being sold/used illegally;

Smart Meters, Gateway and/or Tropos devices are capable of around-the-clock monitoring of certain activities and behaviors in citizens' homes, thereby violating their right to privacy under the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution;

Several utility companies have lied, and continue to lie to citizens regarding their right to refuse Smart Meter installation, as well as misrepresented the health and safety risks of Smart Meters, Gateway and/or Tropos devices;



Citizens of the United States and Canada have been illegally arrested for their refusal to have Smart Meters installed;  
Citizens of the United States and Canada have had their property rights violated and their property illegally damaged by utility companies and/or law enforcement when citizens refused the installation of Smart Meters;  
Utility customers have often been given no notice of Smart Meter installation, or have often been given inadequate notice of Smart Meter installation;  
The installation and use of Smart Meters, Gateway and/or Tropos devices has resulted in widespread job losses;  
Local governments' rights to protect the health, welfare, and safety of their citizens may supersede those of the California Public Utilities Commission;  
The citizens' group Stop Smart Meters of Nevada County shall provide to local authorities documentation to support the aforementioned assertions;  
We, Stop Smart Meters of Nevada County and the undersigned citizens request the following to these governmental entities of Nevada County, California:  
Grass Valley – City Council  
Nevada City – City Council  
Nevada County Board of Supervisors

An immediate MORATORIUM on the further installation of Smart Meters, Gateway Devices, and Tropos Devices throughout Nevada County, CA.  
The immediate BAN/ REMOVAL of all Smart Meters, Gateway Devices, and Tropos devices from Nevada County, CA.  
Utility companies will replace Smart Meters with traditional analogue meters with no costs being levied on the utility customers for said replacement.

We also request for a study to be done study to determine the long term health, safety, and economic impact of Smart Meters, Gateway devices, and Tropos devices on Nevada County's citizens. Nevada County is a rural county with finite monetary resources, whereas the county's largest supplier/installer of Smart Meters is Pacific Gas and Electric, which has substantial financial resources. It is the contention of Stop Smart Meters of Nevada County and the undersigned citizens that Pacific Gas and Electric has installed thousands of Smart Meters in Nevada County without performing adequate, unbiased research as to the impact of this technology on the health and well-being of Nevada County citizens. Therefore, as a good faith effort, it is incumbent upon Pacific Gas and Electric to fund the requested study. We request that the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, with the assistance of Nevada County Counsel, oversee the hiring and ongoing work of an independent research firm to do said study. It is hoped that this will insure there is no conflict of interest on the part of Pacific Gas and Electric.

### **Current petition signers**

- 161. *Leigha* from Grass Valley, CA signed this petition on Oct 18, 2015.
- 160. *John Puccetti* from Ventura, CA signed this petition on May 12, 2015.

Smart meters are not safe they have never been tested in the manner that they are being deployed. The FCC has set thermal based levels for safety that are 35 years out of date.

- 159. *Rick Hahn* from Nevada City, CA signed this petition on May 8, 2015.

We have put in a request to have our meter removed already. They say there is a \$75 fee + \$10 monthly to have our meter read every other month! Will this be a refunded fee if this is passed here?

- 158. *Raymond Greene* from Nevada City, CA signed this petition on May 8, 2015.
- 157. *James A. Brown Jr* from Bay City, MI signed this petition on May 4, 2015.
- 156. *Matthew W.* from Nevada City, CA signed this petition on Apr 20, 2015.
- 155. *John Baranowski* from North Las Vegas, NV signed this petition on Apr 10, 2015.
- 154. *Brian Davis* from Grass Valley, CA signed this petition on Mar 30, 2015.

Don't tread on me any longer!

- 153. *Jeremy Hawkins* from Nevada city, CA signed this petition on Mar 22, 2015.
- 152. *leslie pitts* from Nevada City, CA signed this petition on Mar 16, 2015.

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*Millions of customers were unhappy with their Smart Meters*

## Smart Meter Removal Has Begun



By [Dr. Ileana Johnson Paugh](#) — [Bio and Archives](#) November 3, 2011

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California's Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) has quietly begun replacing Smart Meters with analog meters for citizens reporting adverse health effects. Consumer rights and other groups demanded immediately that their wireless devices be removed from their homes.

Joshua Hart of stopsmartmeters.org reported the good news just as PG&E deploys the last phase of its smart meters in California. The Department of Energy's promise that the smart grid and smart meters will lower electricity costs has proven incorrect; on the contrary, the utility costs have skyrocketed.

Millions of customers were unhappy with their Smart Meters. They are surveillance devices in homes, without a search warrant, which is a violation of privacy. Fires, explosions, and health issues ranging from nausea, dizziness, heart palpitations, headaches, tinnitus, insomnia, and radiation exposure associated with powerful wireless devices that transmit information 6-8 per minute constantly, have plagued the stealthy and deceptive installation.

California's counties and cities have demanded a stop to smart meter installation and some local governments passed laws prohibiting wireless meters. Nevada's Pacific Utilities Company (PUC) called for investigation into the adverse health effects and other smart meter issues.

Recently, the California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Peevey assured customers that the utility "will provide for you to go back to the analog meter if that's your choice." The problem is that most Americans have no idea how damaging these smart meters are and an even larger group of Americans have never heard of it or see it as a contribution to "save" the planet because that is how these meters were sold to the public.

The tired rhetoric said that the smart grid and smart meters save the planet from doom and gloom, reduce waste by cutting your electricity at peak usage, eliminates the reader who must go to each home to calculate their monthly consumption, reduces your carbon footprint, and it will make the planet "green." The reality is very far from the disingenuous promises.

Californians' electric bills have almost tripled and lawsuits ensued. Marylanders swelter without electricity six hours at the peak of summer and almost freeze six hours in the dead of winter. An analog meter user who insisted on keeping it has to pay \$35 each month to have his meter read by the power company. Thousands of customers across the country are having severe health issues from radiation that are not being addressed.

Millions are having issues with the power company selling wireless data collected from their homes via smart meters to third parties. Anybody with a handheld device can capture information from your home and sell it to a third party. The utility company knows if you are home, if you are away, if you are on vacation, which lights are turned on, which appliances, which computers, TVs, and other devices in your home.

Caitlin Phillips of Santa Cruz, Ca, who had suffered severe headaches and other symptoms from her smart meter, became the first person for whom PG&E re-installed on October 28, 2011 the classic analog meter. Caitlin Phillips had told the Wellington Energy installer, a subcontractor of PG&E, that she did not want a smart meter. "When I returned home later, I discovered a smart meter on my house. That night I awoke to severe anxiety, headache, and buzzing in my teeth, and realized the new smart meter was on the other side of the wall from my bed."

Caitlin received help from "Stop Smart Meters" group who referred her to sources to obtain an analog meter and a person to install it. Her symptoms disappeared immediately after the analog meter was installed.

Caitlin spoke to a commission meeting in San Francisco about her ordeal and, a week later PG&E crews replaced her temporary analog meter with an official PG&E analog meter. Her frustration, pain, and suffering were finally over.

An "opt-out" proceeding is currently overseen by an Administrative Law Judge at the California Public Utilities Commission. "There are hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people suffering in their homes from forced 'smart' meter radiation," said Joshua Hart, Director of the grassroots organization Stop Smart Meters!

PG&E and other utilities have responded to health complaints by replacing wireless 'smart' meters with digital meters that are "wireless-ready." These digital meters have been associated with health problems from "dirty electricity" frequencies that pass into a home via the electrical wiring. Digital meters have been rejected by customers who still report health issues after installation. (Joshua Hart)

Susan Brinchman, Director of the San Diego based Center for Electrosmog Prevention, said, "At this point, the burden of responsibility is on the utilities to demonstrate that any new meter they want to install on our homes is safe. Communities have the right to retain analog meters at no extra charge."

While California is pushing back the not so smart wireless technology, places like northern Virginia are going full steam ahead with the installation. Dominion Power has completed placing 100,000 smart meters in a pilot phase in three counties.

“There are hundreds of thousands- if not millions- of people suffering in their homes from forced ‘smart’ meter radiation,” said Joshua Hart, Director of the grassroots organization Stop Smart Meters! “The utilities must respond promptly to all requests that analogs be returned. The alternative is that people will increasingly turn to independent professionals to remove unwanted ‘smart’ meters from their homes, a reasonable action we assert is within our legal rights. Protecting your family’s health is not tampering.”

Links:

[Stopsmartmeters.org](http://Stopsmartmeters.org)

[Lasvegassun.com](http://Lasvegassun.com)

[sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com](http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com)

[video of the smart meter switch](#)

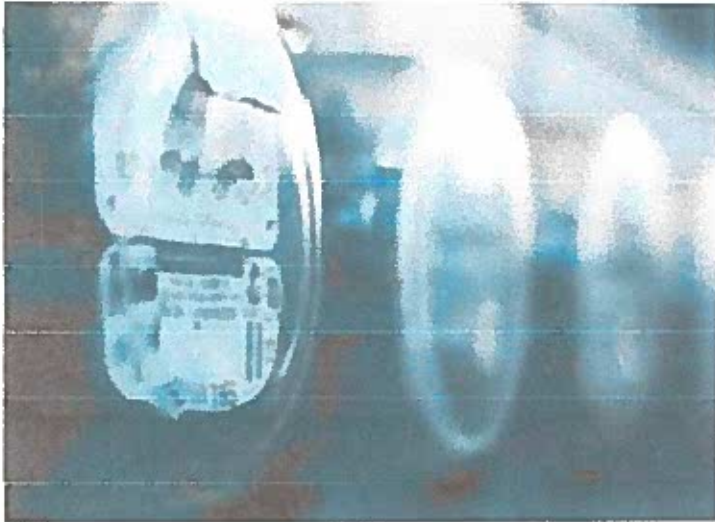
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*Listen to Dr. Paugh on Butler on Business, every Wednesday to Thursday at 10:49 AM EST*

*Dr. Ileana Johnson Paugh, [Romanian Conservative](#) is a freelance writer, author, radio commentator, and speaker. Her books, “Echoes of Communism”, “Liberty on Life Support” and “U.N. Agenda 21: Environmental Piracy,” “Communism 2.0: 25 Years Later” are available at Amazon in paperback and Kindle.*

## Smart Meters, Sluggish Policy? Germany Rejects Fast Smart Meter Rollout



Costs for smart meters exceed benefits for low-power consumers, study finds.

by Magdalena Klemun  
August 02, 2013

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It's a bitter pill for [German smart meter manufacturers](#), but the news is easier to swallow for the country's utility ratepayers: the German Ministry of Economics announced it will not follow EU recommendations to install [smart meters for 80 percent of consumers by 2022](#).

The ministry reviewed a cost-benefit analysis by Ernst & Young and is concerned that the lion's share of the costs could fall to households, while the bulk of benefit could go to industrial consumers with larger opportunities to reduce power consumption and leverage load shifting.

Ernst & Young's study found higher costs than benefits for average households. If only customers that received a meter paid for them, it would cost €89 (\$118) per household per year to cover device and installation costs, which is more than the expected monetary benefits. If costs are distributed among all consumers right from the start of the rollout, including customers that do not install a smart meter, the cost would drop to €29 (\$38). The analysis extends until 2032, with AMI rollout assumed to begin in 2014.

Depending on local network topology and demand patterns, [smart meters](#) can have a larger or smaller impact on mitigating the need for expensive capacity additions. Ernst & Young's analysis included the network benefits of demand reductions and load shifting, but authors said these factors were modeled conservatively, due to considerable uncertainties.

“The results show that we have to increase smart meter deployment in a systematic manner, and therefore in line with Germany’s energy switch policy,” Stefan Kapferer, under-secretary of state in the Ministry of Economics, said in a statement, referring to the country’s ongoing transition away from nuclear power. “Lump-sum approaches are inappropriate for the current situation.”

What appears to be a step away from EU policy goals is actually in line with them, at least in the short run. The 2009 EU directive gives leeway to member states as to how and when they reach the 80 percent smart meter deployment objective, including -- in fact, recommending -- that review regional markets and, if necessary, work out individual plans.

### **Good Neighbors on the Grid: Large-Scale Solar, Utilities, and Customers**

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So Germany did just that, at least the reviewing part. But there is still the discrepancy between Germany’s ambitious renewable energy goals and the lack of a concise smart meter strategy.

The Ministry for the Environment’s “[Energiekonzept 2050](#)” includes 60 percent of energy consumption from renewable sources by 2050, and renewables providing 80 percent of electricity generation. Given the growth of distributed PV and wind generation, more metering will be needed at both the generation and consumption sides of the grid.

Following the reform of Germany’s Renewable Energy Act in 2011, large-scale consumers are now obliged to install smart metering devices. This includes new buildings and those undergoing major renovations, as well as consumers with an annual consumption of more than 6000 kilowatt-hours, about 50 percent above average annual household consumption. Part of the story behind Germany’s delay in smart meter deployment is the special emphasis on data security and interoperability. A technical directive covering data security has recently been completed and is considered an important steppingstone.

Instead of changing direction, Ernst & Young recommends extending metering requirements to older and lower capacity generators. Up until now, only those with an installed capacity of more than 7 kilowatts and connected after the year 2011 were required to install smart metering devices.

For vendors, the recommendation to extend metering requirements offers a ray of hope. It does not promise the mass market of households, but it adds a sense of direction to a hitherto ambiguous mix of regulatory perspectives. Nevertheless, the vast number of Distribution System Operators (DSOs) in Germany complicates the situation. Over 900 different DSOs across the country have had very different ideas on PV plant requirements in the past. Without regulation, history could repeat itself for metering installations.

Overall, the decision comes at a tumultuous time regarding the EU’s view of Germany’s energy policy. The European Commission repeatedly criticized Germany’s Renewable Energy Law for providing loopholes for energy-intensive industries. Many are exempt from network fees and

receive discounts on the heavily discussed renewables surcharge, which households do have to pay.

The German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported interventions by German government officials in Brussels to prevent proceedings before September, when Germany holds parliamentary elections. Reacting to EU pressure this week, the government decided to abandon network fee exemptions for industrial customers, leaving the discussion on the renewables surcharge until after the elections.



2E

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

\* \* \* \* \*

In the matter of the application of **CONSUMERS** )  
**ENERGY COMPANY** for authority to increase its )  
rates for the generation and distribution of )  
electricity and for other relief. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Case No. U-17087

At the June 28, 2013 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,  
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. John D. Quackenbush, Chairman  
Hon. Orjiakor N. Isiogu, Commissioner  
Hon. Greg R. White, Commissioner

**ORDER**

On September 19, 2012, Consumers Energy Company (Consumers) filed an application requesting a \$148.3 million rate increase and other relief. On January 4, 2013, Consumers filed supplemental testimony and exhibits seeking \$144.9 million in rate relief. The application relied on a January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013, projected test year.

A prehearing conference was held before Administrative Law Judge Mark E. Cummins (ALJ) on October 19, 2012. At the prehearing conference, the ALJ granted a petition to intervene filed by (among many others) the Michigan Department of the Attorney General (Attorney General). The Commission Staff (Staff) also participated. Evidentiary hearings commenced on March 25, 2013, and continued through April 2, 2013. On May 7, 2013, the parties filed a settlement agreement resolving most of the issues in the case.

On May 15, 2013, the Commission issued an order approving the settlement agreement. According to the terms of the settlement agreement, the parties agreed that Consumers should be authorized to increase its retail electric rates so as to produce additional annual electric revenues of \$89 million above rates established by the June 7, 2012 order in Case No. U-16794. The settlement resolved all issues with the exception of certain issues raised by the Attorney General concerning Consumers' advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) program, including the amount of the fee associated with choosing to opt out of having a transmitting meter. *See*, Exhibit A to the May 15, 2013 order, paragraph 5. The parties requested that the Commission address these issues based upon the initial and reply briefs. The settlement agreement provides that the \$89 million annual revenue increase and the associated rates specified in the settlement agreement will not be affected by the Commission's rulings on any of the AMI issues. The settlement agreement further provides that, pending the issuance of a Commission order addressing the non-transmitting meter provision, the applicable fee and associated tariff provisions shall be as set forth on Sheet C-32.20 of Attachment 2 to Exhibit A, attached to the May 15, 2013 order.

On May 10 and 24, 2013, initial and reply briefs were filed, respectively, by Consumers, the Staff, and the Attorney General on the AMI issues.

#### Positions of the Parties

In his briefs, the Attorney General urges the Commission to suspend the AMI program, or, if the program is not suspended, to significantly reduce the opt-out fees proposed by the Staff and the utility. The Attorney General argues that the policy guidelines adopted by the Commission in the November 4, 2010 order in Case No. U-16191, p. 17, provide that there is no guaranteed cost recovery for AMI costs, that expenditures must be shown by the utility to be reasonable and prudent, that the project risk is borne by stockholders, and that ratepayers should obtain savings

that offset the cost. Further, the Attorney General notes, the Commission retains authority to review all projected AMI-related costs in each rate case where costs are presented for inclusion in rate base. June 7, 2012 order in Case No. U-16794, p. 31. Against this background, the Attorney General argues in favor of suspending the program based, in part, on his rejection of Consumers' calculation of the net present value (NPV) of the program. Consumers has calculated an NPV of \$42 million for the period of 2007 to 2032. The Attorney General's expert witness Sebastian Coppola, an independent business consultant, calculated a negative NPV of \$133.4 million.

Consumers provided testimony regarding several categories of cost savings expected to accrue from the AMI program. The Attorney General attacks three of these categories. First, with regard to uncollectibles expense, Consumers states that savings of \$1.6 million will be realized in 2013, and will escalate to over \$32 million annually by 2032. The Attorney General argues that the company gave no analysis or support for these figures, and that the company's estimated 30% reduction in uncollectibles is inflated. The Attorney General notes that, while the automatic shutoff feature of a smart meter will allow the disconnection of service for nonpayment to take place sooner than was previously possible, Consumers will still be required to provide adequate notice prior to shutoff and an opportunity to negotiate a payment plan, pursuant to the Commission's billing rules.

Second, Consumers estimates a savings of \$1.3 million in 2013, increasing to \$42 million annually by 2032, associated with the reduction of electricity theft, based on a 1% theft mitigation rate. The Attorney General argues that the 1% theft mitigation rate is unrealistic, and contends that Consumers did not cite to any study of its service territory to support the selection of the 1% mitigation rate.

Third, Consumers estimates savings of \$3.2 million beginning in 2015, growing to \$39 million annually by 2032, associated with energy conservation arising from the use of AMI. The Attorney General argues that these figures are based on a model that assumes inflated participation and conservation rates that are unlikely to ever be achieved. Finally, the Attorney General contends that, with all three cost savings categories, the company's discovery responses were inadequate with regard to the years 2013 and 2014.

The Attorney General also attacks the method used by Consumers to calculate the NPV of the AMI program, which he criticizes as a "regulatory" approach. Mr. Coppola testified that he took what he views as a more traditional approach to the calculation, by using actual cash flows and reducing the assumed savings by 30-50%. Mr. Coppola explains that the difference in the two methods of calculation arises from the fact that he takes "into consideration the upfront investment in equipment, the tax impact of the upfront investment and the annual cost savings after tax, while the Company stretches the capital investment over the depreciable life of the equipment." 7 Tr 1503. The Attorney General notes that there may be unquantified costs (as well as benefits) such as increased internet security costs.

The Attorney General also objects to the opt-out fees proposed by Consumers. For customers wishing to retain a non-transmitting meter (and whose meter has not yet been changed), Consumers proposed an up-front fee of \$69.39, and a monthly fee of \$11.12. The Attorney General proposes an up-front fee of \$12, and a monthly fee of \$7.75. In particular, the Attorney General maintains that there is no need for the proposed \$39.52 that Consumers has included as the cost per customer to restore the premises to a standard (transmitting) meter. The Attorney General contends that the original meter is in place and does not need to be replaced or modified, thus there is no need to apply any charge. The Attorney General also adjusts the proposed \$15

cost to cancel the meter order to \$5, since this process should only take a few minutes, and eliminates a \$4.07 incremental cost per meter, because the appropriate systems and processes for dealing with standard meters are already in place.

With regard to customers who wish to have the non-transmitting meter re-installed (because their meter has already been changed), Consumers proposed an up-front fee of \$123.91 and a monthly fee of \$11.12. The Attorney General proposes an up-front fee of \$65 and a monthly fee of \$7.75. The Attorney General again reduces the work order element to \$5 and eliminates the incremental cost of \$4.07, and argues that the remainder of the charge assumes an overhead for each labor dollar of 178% for safety, training, travel time, and supervision, and 51% loading for equipment costs. Mr. Coppola testified that he eliminated most of the labor loadings and overhead. With regard to the monthly fee, he reduced labor loadings and what he felt were inflated incremental costs. 7 Tr 1506-1509.

In its briefs, Consumers notes that the results of Phase 1 of the AMI project were presented to the Commission in Case No. U-16794, and that in the June 7, 2012 order in that matter the Commission authorized the company to begin Phase 2, which includes system-wide smart meter installations. Consumers states that approximately 1.8 million electric smart meters will be installed during 2012-2019, enabling the modernization of Michigan's electric grid. Consumers provided testimony regarding the many benefits from AMI, which include reduced meter reading, improved bill accuracy and fewer estimated reads, reduced energy theft, reduced uncollectibles, property tax savings, increased conservation, reduction in the number of employee field trips, increased customer access to detailed energy usage information through the web portal, and improved customer service with respect to billing due dates and enrollment in the e-billing program. 4 Tr 535-546. Consumers indicates that its business case analysis was updated in

March 2012, and shows a 2-year positive NPV of \$42 million for the overall program. 4 Tr 543-545; Exhibit A-71. Consumers notes that there are approximately 36 million smart meters installed in the U.S., with an annual growth rate of 30%, and, by 2015, there are expected to be 65 million smart meters. 4 Tr 562.

Consumers points out that the Attorney General advocated suspension of the AMI program in Case Nos. U-16191 and U-16794, arguing in both cases that the cost/benefit analysis was flawed, and his position was rejected by the Commission in both cases. Consumers notes that its business case has now been reviewed in several cases, and the Attorney General has added nothing new. Consumers notes that the Staff has previously found the NPV of the project to be about \$34.5 million. Consumers contends that the Attorney General simply relies upon opinion, and ignores the data presented by the utility on its pilot program in Case No. U-16794.

With regard to the fees associated with the non-transmitting meter provision, Consumers contends that its proposed fees constitute a "tariff-based maintenance charge to cover the cost of maintaining and testing the existing equipment and obtaining monthly meter readings." Consumers' initial brief, p. 9; 4 Tr 548-549. In order to allow customers to retain their existing electro-mechanical meters, the company must maintain meter inventories, distinct testing processes, and billing platforms for actual monthly meter reads, and the associated costs include both up-front and ongoing costs. Consumers asserts that the fees are based on cost-of-service principles. Exhibit A-72; 4 Tr 549-550. Consumers notes that the Staff determined that the company's proposal is consistent with the Commission mandate to create a non-transmitting meter provision based on cost-of-service principles in the September 11, 2012 order in Case No. U-17000. The Staff recommended that the proposed monthly fee be reduced to \$9.72, to reflect

the removal of costs associated with meter reading, AMI capital investment, and expenses that are already included in rates, and Consumers agreed to these changes. 7 Tr 1933-1934; 4 Tr 559.

Consumers points out that the Attorney General does not contend that customers who opt out do not create additional costs, but rather contends that those customers should not bear the fully loaded costs incurred as a result of opting out. However, Consumers argues, the increased administrative costs are a direct result of the decision to opt out, and the September 11 order required that cost-based principles be applied to the cost allocation of the opt-out option. Consumers states that the up-front installation charge of \$39.52 for the smart meter that will eventually replace the existing meter is a reasonable charge, in light of the fact that there will inevitably be a field visit made for that installation that is solely the result of the opt-out decision. Consumers maintains that it would not be fair to place this charge on the next customer at that location, who was not responsible for the decision to reject the initial smart meter installation. Consumers argues that the Attorney General's proposed up-front and monthly fees place part of the costs resulting from opting out onto other customers.

In its briefs, the Staff supports the AMI program, noting that the billing and use programs that Consumers will offer to customers will help customers to reduce peak consumption and overall electricity usage. The Staff notes that the web portal should be available sometime this year, and that the company is making a conscientious effort to educate customers about the benefits of the AMI program, which should result in strong enrollment in the customer programs. Further, Consumers accepted the Staff's recommendation that a technical conference with the Staff take place every two months. 7 Tr 1925; 4 Tr 558.

The Staff argues that Mr. Coppola's analysis should be given no weight. The Staff maintains that the company's NPV analysis shows a benefit over the life of the program from the customer's

perspective, which, the Staff argues, is the best measure because it shows the impact on ratepayers. The Staff further argues that the Attorney General does not explain why he chose to reduce assumed savings by 30-50%; thus, the reduction appears to be arbitrary and reflects a draconian view of the risks associated with the AMI program. The Staff avers that the Attorney General provides no empirical evidence such as case studies to support his assertion that the cost savings are inflated, whereas Consumers provides evidence to show that it has been very conservative in estimating the level of theft reduction to be 1%, rather than the 3% that could have been supported by the data.

While acknowledging that there is no absolute certainty regarding the amount of benefit the project will eventually produce for ratepayers, the Staff contends that both the quantified and non-quantified benefits (such as faster outage detection and increased bill accuracy) of the project make it worthwhile for ratepayers. Finally, the Staff notes that the Commission has approved the project twice, and has indicated that it will not re-evaluate the decision to go forward with system-wide deployment.

The Staff supports the proposed non-transmitting meter provision fees, with the Staff-recommended changes. The Staff found the proposed tariffs to be consistent with the September 11 order, and notes that these costs will continue to be reviewed in rate cases.

### Discussion

The Commission finds that the record evidence in this case is more than sufficient to justify continued funding of the AMI program as described in Consumers' application. The Attorney General's proposed reduction to the forecasted benefits is arbitrary and unsupported. The Commission is not persuaded that the uncollectibles savings are overstated simply because the utility will continue to be required to give notice, nor that the theft reduction is overstated based on



the data produced by the utility. As indicated in the two most recent contested rate case orders, the Commission approves continued full deployment of AMI, and will continue to review costs associated with the program for reasonableness and prudence in each and every future rate case. June 7, 2012 order in Case No. U-16794, p. 31; and November 4, 2010 order in Case No. U-16191, pp. 17-19.

The Commission adopts the tariff-based fees proposed by Consumers with the modifications proposed by the Staff and accepted by the company, attached as Exhibit A. The Attorney General's approach to the up-front and monthly fees appears to ignore the full actual cost to Consumers of continuing to maintain outdated equipment and systems for a few customers. The Attorney General fails to explain who (if not the requesting customer) is to pay for the full administrative costs associated with the non-transmitting meter provision, or the cost of eventually installing the new standard meter, where installation must necessarily take place outside of the confines of the roll-out of all the meters. The Commission finds that the proposed fees, as modified by the Staff, are reasonable.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. Consumers Energy Company's application for authority to continue the advanced metering infrastructure program and implement a non-transmitting meter provision is approved.

B. Within 30 days of the date of this order, Consumers Energy Company shall file with the Commission tariff sheets in conformity with Exhibit A attached to this order.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so in the appropriate court within 30 days after issuance and notice of this order, under MCL 462.26.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



John D. Quackenbush, Chairman



Orjiakor N. Isiogu, Commissioner



Greg R. White, Commissioner

By its action of June 28, 2013.



Mary Jo Kunkle, Executive Secretary

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## Smart Meter Companies Admit: We're Spying On You

Written by: [Tara Dodrill](#) [Privacy](#) [19 Comments](#) [Print This Article](#)



Image source: Portland GE

Smart meters are spying devices. Not breaking news? Likely not for those of us who have researched the issue for quite a long while, but an admission by those who make the devices is rather shocking.

That is exactly what has happened, as SmartGridNews, a website supported by the high-tech meter industry, acknowledged that smart meters are gathering private information on homeowners.

Smart meters utilize wireless technology and instantly tell power companies how much electricity a home is using, and even can report on the power usage by individual appliances, as Smart Grid News said. [Smart meters](#) also can literally control newer household appliances that have the capability to communicate with the device.

“One of the next areas of value comes from taking smart meter data and ‘disaggregating’ it to tell us exactly how customers are using electricity,” reads a new story on the website. “Do external devices already do this? Sure. Just as progress in the smart phone world reduced the need for external devices (cameras, alarm clocks, radios, pedometers, navigation systems, etc.) the ability to get accurate, appliance level feedback, without the need to invest in external hardware, is the next step in the world of smart meters.”

The Stop Smart Meters website states that fire dangers are also a problem associated with smart meters. Fire calls after smart meter installations reportedly include the shorting-out of electronics of all varieties and the burning-out of appliances.

*[FREE Book Reveals Facts About How To Create A Self-Sufficient, Off-The-Grid Lifestyle Using Solar Power!](#)*

Cyber hacking of smart meters to possibly overload and garner control of significant portions of the [power grid](#) is also an often-voiced worry about the smart power initiative. In Connecticut, 30 percent of customers in a pilot program had higher bills after [smart meters](#) were installed.

According to the Stop Smart Meters group, the smart grid devices do not always emit less RF (radio frequency) exposure than a cell phone — as some utility companies allegedly state.

“People are becoming increasingly aware of the potential harm done by chronic exposure to RF radiation-emitting devices and are taking steps to change how they use them. Most people are not offered a wired smart meter and you can’t turn it off once it is installed,” the group contends.

*Story continues below video*

Smart grid opponents have long opposed the gathering of their personal usage information.

Former CIA Director David Petraeus once stated that WiFi-connected devices, such as appliances commonly found inside many homes, will “transform the art of spying.” Petraeus also said that spies will be capable of monitoring Americans without going inside the home or perhaps even acquiring a warrant. He went on to state that remote control radio frequency

identification devices, “energy harvesters,” sensor networks, and small embedded servers all connected to an Internet network will be all that is necessary for clandestine intelligence gathering.

The Smart Grid News report said customers surveyed in a recent report supported smart meters.

“Customers were delighted with the initiative as it showed how their new smart meters could work for them,” the website said. “Utility companies wanting to meet their specific conservation targets to drive customer engagement should ensure they are making the most of their smart meter investment. They can now use the power of smart meter data disaggregation to identify the customers who are most likely to help them reach their specific targets and turn them into willing partners in the drive for energy conservation.”

Data disaggregation basically means the automatic collection of personal energy habits of the homes attached to smart meters. The more customers know that is the case, the more they will oppose smart meters.

*How do you feel about smart meters and the creation of a smart grid? Let us know in th*

← [Is the Government Spying On You Through Your Own Computer's Webcam Or Microphone?](#)

[81.5% of Money Created through Quantitative Easing Is Sitting There Gathering Dust ... Instead of Helping the Economy](#) →

## Is Your Smart Meter Spying On You?

Posted on [June 25, 2013](#) by [WashingtonsBlog](#)

*Preface: The original intent of smart meters may been good ... conserve energy by setting up a "smart grid" to maximize the efficiency of energy distribution. But there are questions about [potential health effects](#) from smart meters. And – in this era of pervasive spying – it's important to know where the threats to our privacy are coming from.*

### Burglars, Hackers and the Government All Want to See Your Smart Meter Data

NBC News [reports](#):

Researchers examining the [privacy implications](#) of smart-meter technology found that one German provider's devices contained vulnerabilities that allowed them to snoop on unencrypted data to determine whether or not the homeowners were home.

After signing up with the German smart-meter firm Discoveryg, the researchers detected that the company's devices [transmitted unencrypted data](#) from the home devices back to the company's servers over an insecure link. The researchers, Dario Carluccio and Stephan Brinkhaus, intercepted the supposedly confidential and sensitive information, and, based on the fingerprint of power usage, were able to tell not only whether or not the homeowners were home, away or even sleeping, but also **what movie they were watching on TV.**

Network World [points out](#):

At the last Chaos Communication Congress in Germany, researchers presented "[Smart Hacking For Privacy](#)" and demonstrated that [detailed smart meter data can show what TV shows you watch, scan for copyright-protected DVD movies you watch, and other privacy intrusive details.](#)

Network World also [notes](#):

Smart meters provide highly detailed energy-use data. The info can be **used by police to find and to bust indoor pot farms, by insurance companies to determine health care premiums, and by criminals to determine if you own high-dollar appliances and when is the best time to steal them.** And that's only the tip of the potential privacy invasion iceberg.

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In central Ohio, police file at least 60 subpoenas each month for energy-use records of people suspected in indoor marijuana growing operations, [reported the Columbus Dispatch](#). Most of the houses with indoor pot growing operations are reportedly in quiet neighborhoods without much traffic. DEA agent Anthony Marotta said the subpoena is only one tool used to catch “grow house” operators. Police get a tip about suspicious activity, but if undercover officers don’t discover anything illegal during a stake out, then utility consumption records can be sought. “How else can I get an indicator to get probable cause if I can’t see anything?” Marotta said to reporter Dean Narciso.

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The [U.S. Department of Energy warned](#) [PDF] that smart grid technology can provide a highly detailed household profile of energy consumption and said **policies are needed to restrict utilities from sharing consumer usage data with third parties**. The National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)) outlined [Potential Privacy Impacts that Arise from the Collection and Use of Smart Grid Data](#) [PDF].

From reading it, a person might wonder if smart meters will be real-time surveillance spies. It suggests that **insurance companies might use the smart meter data to determine health care premiums, such as if there is high usage at night which would indicate sleep behavior problems**. Besides looking to bust pot farmers, law enforcement might use the data as “real-time surveillance to determine if residents are present and current activities inside the home.” The press might wish to see the smart meter data of celebrities. Criminals may want to see the data to determine the best time for a burglary and what high dollar appliances you might have to steal. Marketers might want the data for profiling and targeting advertisements. Creditors might want the data to determine if behavior indicates creditworthiness.

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Lockheed Martin general manager of Energy and Cyber Services said the smart grid could include **as many as 440 million new hackable points by the end of 2015**, [reported Computerworld](#).

The New York Times [writes](#):

Writing in Friday’s issue of the journal Science, the environmental scientist Jan Beyea foresees a world in which **epidemiologists could harvest data on how people live from day to day — their use of electric blankets or microwave ovens, for example — and correlate such activities with the likelihood of developing certain health conditions**. The meter data could serve as a check on information obtained from the questionnaires that are used in such studies, he said.



With data from thousands or millions of smart meters, researchers could design tools to measure **how many times a day a refrigerator door was opened, relevant to dietary and obesity research, or sleep patterns, relevant to a wide range of health research, he wrote.**

National Geographic [notes](#):

**“It’s not hard to imagine a divorce lawyer subpoenaing this information, an insurance company interpreting the data in a way that allows it to penalize customers, or criminals intercepting the information to plan a burglary,”** the private nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation noted in a [blog post](#) about smart meters.

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The European Union’s data protection watchdog [warned earlier this year that smart meters](#), while bringing significant potential benefits, also **could be used track whether families “are away on holiday or at work, if someone uses a specific medical device or a baby-monitor, how they like to spend their free time and so on.”** The European Data Protection Supervisor urged that member states provide the public with more information on how the data is being handled.

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The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) ... was involved in producing a comprehensive [report on privacy](#) with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that summarizes, often in chilling detail, the many ways in which privacy breaches could occur on the smart grid, and recommends best practices for preventing those breaches. **“As Smart Grid implementations collect more granular, detailed, and potentially personal information, this information may reveal business activities, manufacturing procedures, and personal activities in a given location,”** the NIST report said.

The San Francisco Chronicle [reports](#):

Critics of “smart meters” have often warned that the advanced electricity and gas meters can invade privacy by revealing when someone is and isn’t home.

**According to the American Civil Liberties Union, they have reason to worry.**

The civil rights group on Wednesday reported that **California’s three big, investor-owned utilities had disclosed individual account information on thousands of their customers last year, usually to government agencies armed with subpoenas.**

Last year, the United States Congressional Research Service addressed some of the [issues involved](#):

Data recorded by smart meters must be highly detailed, and, consequently, it may show what individual appliances a consumer is using. The data must also be transmitted to electric



utilities—and possibly to third parties outside of the smart grid—subjecting it to **potential interception or theft as it travels over communications networks and is stored in a variety of physical locations.**

These characteristics of smart meter data present privacy and security concerns that are likely to become more prevalent as government-backed initiatives expand deployment of the meters to millions of homes across the country. In the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), Congress appropriated funds for the implementation of the Smart Grid Investment Grant (SGIG) program administered by the Department of Energy. This program now permits the federal government to reimburse up to 50% of eligible smart grid investments, which include the cost to electric utilities of buying and installing smart meters. In its annual report on smart meter deployment, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission cited statistics showing that the SGIG program has helped fund the deployment of about 7.2 million meters as of September 2011.<sup>15</sup> At completion, the program will have partially funded the installation of 15.5 million meters. By 2015, the Institute for Electric Efficiency expects that a total of **65 million smart meters will be in operation throughout the United States.**

The CRS discussed some of the laws which may govern smart meter data:

If smart meter data and transmissions fall outside of the protection of the Fourth Amendment, they may still be protected from unauthorized disclosure or access under the Stored Communications Act (SCA), the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA), and the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA). These statutes, however, would **appear to permit law enforcement to access smart meter data for investigative purposes under procedures provided in the SCA, ECPA, and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA),** subject to certain conditions. Additionally, an electric utility's privacy and security practices with regard to consumer data may be subject to Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (FTC Act). The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has recently focused its consumer protection enforcement on entities that violate their privacy policies or fail to protect data from unauthorized access. This authority could apply to electric utilities in possession of smart meter data, provided that the FTC has statutory jurisdiction over them. General federal privacy safeguards provided under the Federal Privacy Act of 1974 (FPA) protect smart meter data maintained by federal agencies, including data held by federally owned electric utilities.

The CRS report notes the incompleteness of the laws applying to smart meters. And – given that the FISA court has recently been shown to [rubber-stamp mass surveillance on millions of Americans without any protection](#) – we're not sure that the current legal protections regarding smart meter data are worth the paper they're written on.

England is just as bad. As the Telegraph [writes](#):

The devices, which the government plans to install **in every home by 2020**, will also tell energy firms what sort of appliances are being used, allowing companies to target customers who do not reduce their energy consumption.

Privacy campaigners have expressed horror at the proposals, which come as two million homes have 'spy' devices fitted to their rubbish bins by councils who record how much residents are recycling.

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In its impact assessment, however, the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) says there "is theoretically scope... for using the smart metering communications infrastructure to enable a variety of other services, such as **monitoring of vulnerable householders by health authorities or social services departments.**"

It adds: "Information from smart meters could also make it possible for a supplier to determine when electricity or gas was being used in a property and, to a degree, the **types of technology that were being used within the property.** This could be used to target energy efficiency advice and offers of measures, social programmes etc to householders."

Doretta Cocks, founder of the Campaign for Weekly Waste Collection, said: "**This is Orwellian. We're already under surveillance for what we put outside the home in bins and now we could be watched for what we're doing inside as well.**"

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Guy Herbert, general secretary of NO2ID, said: "Information from smart meters might be useful to energy providers and perhaps even their customers, but **there's no reason for any public authority to have access to it – unless they've a warrant to do so.**"

"This document is a prime example of **government efforts to shoehorn data sharing and feature creep into every new policy.**"

\*\*\*

The DECC document adds households could even have their power to some appliances turned off remotely to help the national grid if there is too much demand.

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Consumer Focus, the watchdog, has also expressed concern about the privacy implications of the meters, saying consumers are "at risk of unfair, excessive, inequitable and inefficient charging" because **energy companies could use the new data to introduce more complex tariffs to maximise profits at peak times.**

And the Age reports that smart meter data from Australian homeowners is shared with random companies:

Detailed information about electricity customers' power usage, which gives insights into when a house is occupied, is **being shared with third parties including mail houses, debt collectors, data processing analysts and government agencies.**

Customers with smart meters who sign up for Origin Energy's online portal must consent to their data being shared with a string of third parties. The data is stored in Australia but shared with US company Tendril, which is described by Origin as a smart energy technology provider.

Australia's privacy watchdog said the technology could threaten people's privacy. "We are starting to see people voicing concern about the level of data that these meters can collect," federal Privacy Commissioner Timothy Pilgrim said.

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Mr Pilgrim said electricity companies had a legal responsibility to delete or "de-identify" personal information that was no longer needed. However, an Origin spokesman said the

# Privacy on the Smart Grid

*Are smart meters spies? They don't have to be*

By Ariel Bleicher

Posted 5 Oct 2010 | 18:03 GMT

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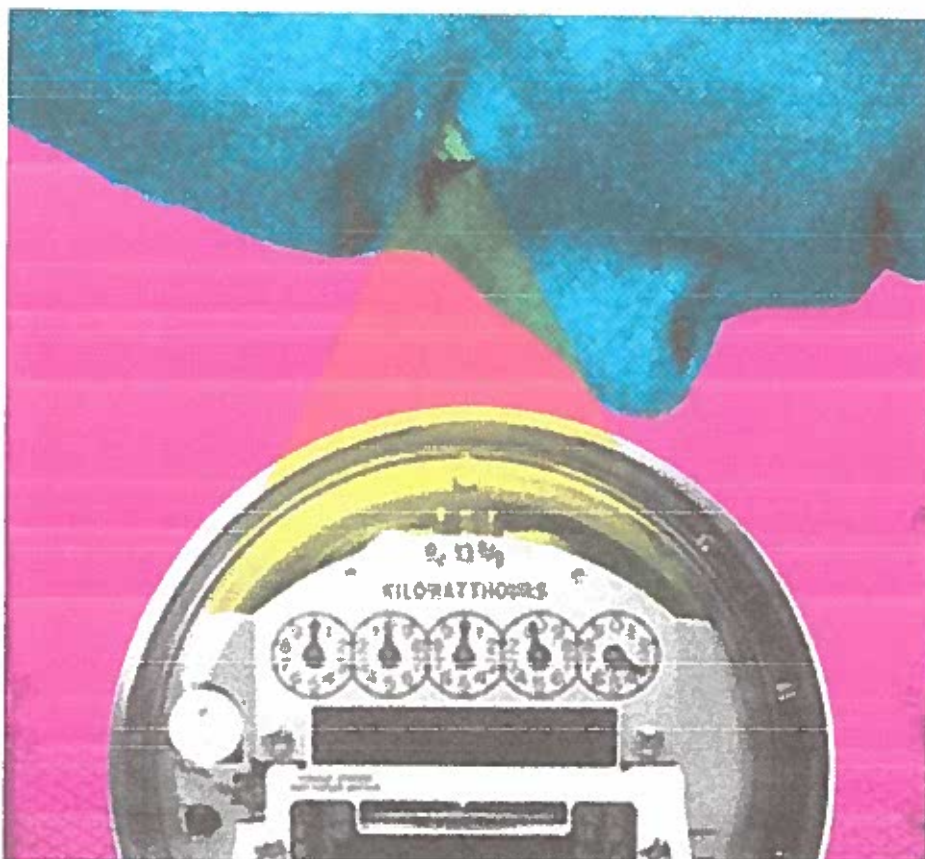


Illustration: Mark Montgomery

5 October 2010—Back in 2007, when the Dutch government announced that all 7 million homes in the Netherlands would be equipped with [smart meters](#) by 2013, it anticipated little resistance. After all, who wouldn't welcome a device that could save both energy and money? But consumers worried that such intelligent monitoring devices, which transmit power-usage information to the utility as frequently as every 15 minutes, would make them vulnerable to thieves, annoying marketers, and police investigations. They spoke out so strongly against these "espionage meters" that the government made them optional.

A [report](#) released this past April by the New York City-based consulting company [Accenture](#) found that the Dutch are hardly alone. Of more than 9000 consumers polled in 17 countries,

about one-third said they would be discouraged from using energy-management programs, such as smart metering, if it gave utilities greater access to data about their personal energy use. And in a comprehensive report on smart grid privacy released in September, the [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#) compiled a list of scenarios that consumers fear if their energy data got into the wrong hands.

It all sounds less paranoid when you consider that each appliance—the refrigerator, kettle, toaster, washing machine—has its own energy fingerprint, or “appliance load signature,” that a smart meter can read. Anyone who gets hold of this data gets a glimpse of exactly what appliances you use and how often you use them. But with a little clever engineering, utilities could protect consumer [privacy](#) without compromising the benefits of smart meters, say researchers at [Toshiba Research Europe](#) in Bristol, England.

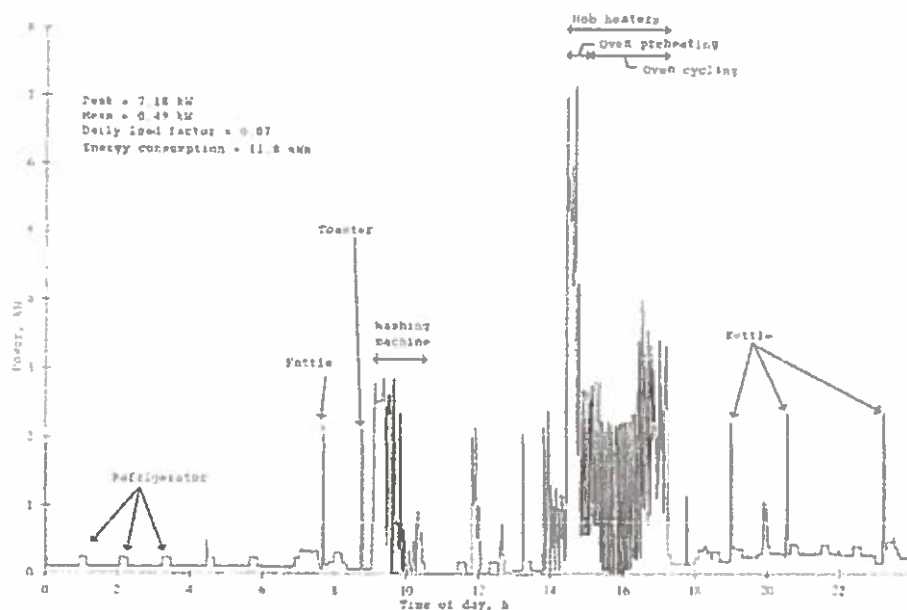


Image: National Institute of Standards and Technology

**You Sure Drink a Lot of Tea:** Smart meter data can show what's going on in a home, because tea kettles, toasters, and other appliances have identifiable load signatures.

*Click on the image for a larger view.*

The researchers propose two technical fixes that could appease consumers and help smart meter programs get successfully under way. Georgios Kalogridis and Costas Efthymiou of Toshiba will present the solutions this week at the first [IEEE International Conference on Smart Grid Communications](#), in Gaithersburg, Md.

The first is a smart grid variation on a technique that's already used to protect private information collected for [health care databases](#) or by Internet services like Google and Amazon. The concept is what's known as data [anonymization](#). In order for the smart grid to do smart things, such as distribute power more uniformly, it needs to have detailed and frequent

information about energy use and a general idea about which geographical areas are using power, the researchers say. But the utility doesn't necessarily need to know to whom this data belongs. Energy data, in other words, doesn't need to be tied to a specific household to be useful in managing the grid. Toshiba's system would hide a smart meter address before sending energy-usage data to utilities, the same way an anonymous Internet proxy server can hide a computer's IP address before sending data to other networks.

But who or what will do the anonymizing? The problem with giving utilities this responsibility is that many consumers don't trust them, the researchers say. Indeed, Accenture's April report found that less than a third of consumers surveyed said they trust their electricity providers to give them good advice about using energy. Trust is particularly low in countries such as Germany and the United Kingdom, where electric utilities have been deregulated and consumers regularly switch providers.

"The reason customers aren't trusting isn't because they think their utility is doing something dubious," says Greg Guthridge, managing director of Accenture's Utility Customer Care Practice. Rather, customers distrust utilities because they have few interactions with them, most of which are unpleasant—reporting a power outage, for example, or contesting a high power bill. Guthridge believes utilities can still gain consumer trust if they communicate clearly and more frequently about their privacy policies.

The Toshiba researchers propose having a third-party escrow service take charge of anonymizing and managing detailed energy-usage data. In this case, only the escrow service—it could be the smart meter manufacturer or other trusted party—would be able to communicate with the encrypted data-collecting components embedded in the smart meter, the researchers explain. The only identifiable information a utility would get directly from the smart meter would be the information it already gets: billing information and monthly energy use. Of course, this solution would require protocols and standardization, the researchers say.

Their second solution takes an entirely different approach: It anticipates a time in the not-so-distant future, when many people will drive electric and plug-in hybrid cars and having an extra rechargeable battery (or two) around the house won't be such a novelty. The Toshiba researchers suggest that running a few appliances—or as many as you want—partially off a battery, rather than directly off the grid, would hide the fact that those appliances are in use.

It works like this: If you connect the battery to your electricity supply and intelligently route power from both the battery and the grid to the appliances, then the smart meter will record a very different load signature—one that doesn't identify appliances. The Toshiba researchers admit that some electricity will be lost in the diversion, so there would be a trade-off of some efficiency for privacy. They are still figuring out how best to optimize both cost and privacy using such a system. On the upside, they point out, storing electricity in a battery would allow the utility to charge it at times when electricity generation is high and demand is low, reducing the risk of blackouts.

It's a clever idea, says Rebecca Herold, a privacy consultant who heads the NIST smart grid privacy subgroup. "But it's important to recognize that whenever you have data that reveals



information about people, you still have to have robust policies in place to help guide how it's used and shared." In other words, you just can't engineer your way out of everything.

Who wants smart meter data?	How could the data be used?
Utilities	To monitor electricity usage and load; to determine bills
Electricity usage advisory companies	To promote energy conservation and awareness
Insurance companies	To determine health care premiums based on unusual behaviors that might indicate illness
Marketers	To profile customers for targeted advertisements
Law enforcers	To identify suspicious or illegal activity*
Civil litigators	To identify property boundaries and activities on premises
Landlords	To verify lease compliance
Private investigators	To monitor specific events
The press	To get information about famous people
Creditors	To determine behavior that might indicate creditworthiness
Criminals	To identify the best times for a burglary or to identify high-priced appliances to steal

Source: "[Potential Privacy Impacts that Arise from the Collection and Use of Smart Grid Data](#)," National Institute of Standards and Technology, Volume 2, pp. 30–32, Table 5-3.

\*In the 2001 legal case *Kyllo v. United States*, the government used monthly utility bills to "show that the suspect's power usage was 'excessive' and thus 'consistent with' a marijuana-growing operation."

# EFF: Data Collected From Utility Smart Meters Should Be Protected By The Fourth Amendment

from the *I-always-feel-like-somebody's-watching-me* dept

For years, electric utilities have increasingly embraced smart meters. Roughly 65 million of the devices have been installed in the United States over the last few years, with 57 million of them in consumer homes. The meters provide innumerable benefits to utility companies, often delivering an ocean of new remote access and monitoring tools to better manage the network and reduce meter reading truck rolls. The benefits to consumers (outside of accuracy) have been less notable, including interference with [some home routers](#), as well as the fact that a number of models have been shown to be [relatively easily hacked](#).

In addition to hackability, the sheer volume of data being gobbled up by utility companies tells an awful lot about you (when you wake, when you sleep, when you're home or away). This has, at times, sparked outrage from locals in places like Naperville, Illinois, where, since 2011, meter opponents [have been fighting the intrusive nature of the devices](#):

*"...Opponents say the meters provide so much information that everyone from cops to criminals to marketing departments can learn when people are home and what they do when they're there. Last year, the anti-meter movement fell just short of collecting enough signatures to place a question on the ballot asking residents to decide whether the devices should be removed. They also have a pending federal lawsuit against the city alleging that their constitutional right to due process has been violated."*

That was 2013. In 2015, the city of Naperville was forced to [settle with one smart meter opponent](#) after she sued the city and four of its police officers for violating her constitutional rights. That same year, [another man sued the city](#) over what he claimed was an unwarranted search into his home. But last fall, a federal district court in Illinois declared that Americans can't reasonably expect any privacy in the data collected by these devices, and utility collection of it is completely beyond the protection of the Fourth Amendment.

That case is currently on appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. And the EFF and Privacy International have asked the Seventh Circuit if they can weigh in on the case. In a blog post, the EFF points out that the court's decision was based on a [misunderstanding of how the technology actually works](#). Basically, the court assumed that these new meters work in exactly the same way as their older counterparts, ignoring the significantly-expanded data collected:

*"The court was convinced that data collected from smart meters is no different from data collected from analog meters, in terms of what it reveals about what's going on inside the home. But that's simply not the case. Smart meters not only produce far more data than analog*



*meters—those set at collecting data in 15-minute intervals produce 2,880 meter readings per month compared to just one monthly reading for analog meters—but the data is also far more intimate. A single monthly read of cumulative household energy use does not reveal how energy is being used throughout the course of a day. But smart meter data does. And its time granularity tells a story about what is going on inside the home for anyone who wishes to read it."*

As we've seen with cellular location data, once companies collect this information, it's often sold to any number of third parties who may be using this data in ways that aren't always in your best interests. But as [Tim Cushing has occasionally noted](#), getting companies to be forthcoming about what they're collecting and who they may be selling it to is sometimes difficult, with at least one company [suing](#) to thwart transparency efforts on the subject in Seattle. And as [Glyn Moody has also noted](#), this collision between privacy rights and utility data collection on the smart meter

**DTE's heavy-handed abuse to for smart meters on the public in Michigan. This is a list of those people that were shut off and without power for some period of time.**

NAME	City	Power Shut off	Phone	
Dan Fitzgerald	Detroit	12/12/14	313-289-3147	Power remains off
Georgianna livingstone	Clarkston	5/10/14	248-563-4378	Power remains off
Robert Pieper	Roseville	12/16	586-779-4059	Power off 2 days
Cheryl Jones	Dearborn	12/16	313-334-2437	Power off 4 days
Olga Puste	Lincoln Pk		313-382-5346	Power restored
Ralph & Donna Stenman	Farmington	8/15/15	248-987-6367	Power remains off
David & Glenna Launer	Alburt Hills	9/9/15	248-373-9111	Power remains off
David Sheldon	Royal Oak		248-967-3601	Power remains off
Mike Fruehoff	Dearborn	10/16	313-727-3367	Power cut at pole for 4 days
Jim & Jamie Chalmers	Cheboygan	9/11/15	231-818-1312	Power remains off
Dominic/Lillian Cusumano			586-738-5271	
Andrea McNinch	Royal Oak	12/14	248-721-7163	Power remains off
Leslie Glupa	Dexter		734-545-4913	
Neal Leighton	Livonia	8/16	734-513-7198	Power cut at pole for 1 week
Myron & JoAnn Nims	South Lyons		248-446-1053	Power remains off
Arlene McGuire	Southgate	9/14	734-637-4744	Power off 14 days
Jon Muresan	Royal Oak		248-288-5259	
Jill Cipa	Warren	9/9/15	586-764-6054	
Molly Cleary	Ann Arbor	3/18/15	734-930-6923	
Karen Kane	Hazel Park	4/9/15	248-547-0613	Power off at pole 30 days
Phil Filiccia	Macomb	4/8/15	586-421-0092	Power off at pole 3 days + reconnect fee
Rebecca Scholz	Macomb	4/8/15	586-203-7598	Power off at pole
Dustin Milton	Macomb	4/8/15	586-718-8033	Power off at pole
Jill Yantz	Allen Pk	3/15	313-386-0919	
Lizabeth Bepalko	Roseville	3/30/15	586-776-1124	Power off 1 day
Penny Gonder	Lincoln Pk	9/16	313-402-1158	Power off 3 weeks
Jim Crain	Lincoln Pk	9/16	313-381-3680	Power off 3 weeks
John & Pauline Holiton			810-387-2104	
Pam & Andy Krupp	Rochester Hills	11/29/16	248-651-4439	Power off for 3 days
Marvel Erdman	Ida	12/16	586-322-0028	
Matt Kelly	Pinckney	12/16	517-994-4860	
Marcus Sark	Plymouth	1/15	734-846-0034	
Margaret Fenoglio	Allen Pk	9/17/14	313-383-4408	Power off for 2 weeks
Dennis Stiles	St Clair Shores			Power off
Nicole Barrett	Macomb	4/8/15	586-744-6488	Power off 3 days+ charges to turn on
Bill Davidson	Canton	5/2015	734-397-1247	Power off for 5 days
Me McHugh	Sterling Hgts	12/4/14	586-939-2302	Not home broke lock and installed AMI

## DTE/CE Abusive Criminal Acts

1. Mathew Williams	Clinton Twp.	586-303-5225	Wrecked his wooden fence to exchange meter
2. Siegrid Stern	Rochester Hills	248-375-1411	Forced change of Water Meter.
3. Sue Hammel	Royal Oak	248-890-7839	Oct 28, 2014, forced to AMI or shut off
4. John Olsen	Alpena	989-255-4592	Summer 2014 Cut lock & forced AMI
5. Fay Snyder	Warren	586-980-4439	Oct 14, 2014 Cut lock & Forced AMI when not home
6. Jim Wickhouse	Warren	586-206-0125	Water Shut off for 3 years
7. Bill Reed	Shelby Twp	586-179-9683	Feb 13, 2014 Cut lock & forced AMI when not home
8. Carol Garcia	Bruce	248-659-8733	Elect Sensitive trying to remove AMI for several years.
9. Terrence Crooney	Amada	586-994-4860	Threatened to shut off power.
10. Diana Tytran	Clinton Twp	586-943-0393	Trying for several years to get analog
11. Megan McHugh	Sterling Hgts	586-939-2302	Trying for several years to get analog
12. Roger Jagosy	Redford	248-224-7765	Trying for several years to get analog
13. Darren Schmidt	Ann Arbor	734-302-7575	Trying for several years to get analog
14. Peggy Vauris	Warren	586-774-8485	Trying for several years to get analog
15. Theresa Hendren	New Baltimore	586-804-6235	Forcibly threatening to change meter
16. Gina Wolf	Cottrellville	586-504-0940	Trying for several years to get analog
17. Priscilla Czapski	Flat Rock	734-379-9358	Harassed to change meter to AMI
18. Leigh Arrathoon	Rochester	248-266-2607	Trying for several years to get analog
19. Kim& Brian Cary	Dryden	586-871-7734	Forced install of AMI when not home
20. David Woy	St Clair Shores	313-657-7661	threatening with shut off.
21. Renee McNerney	Allen Pk	313-386-6844	Under threat and intimidation she Removed the locking device and had the AMI meter installed
22. Laurie Butterfield	Rochester Hills	248-494-0586	Has been trying to get AMI removed. Is sick from EMF/RF
23. Marge Parker	East Point	586-872-9019	6/21/14 Tricked by DTE and forced to accept AMI.
24. Cynthia Hass	Dearborn	313-271-7326	Trying to get AMI removed. Highly sensitive to RF/EMF
25. Mary Joe Linbeck	Dearborn Hgts	313-561-0989	Met by 4 DTE "big men" right after church and threatened that they would have their power shut off
26. Rebecca Pointer	Riley Twp	810-392-1111	11/16 FIRE BY SMART METER. HOUSE BURNED TO THE GROUND.
27. Richard Meltzer	Southfield	248-356-4835	Damaged the siding to break the lock and change to AMI. Took owners lock and installed their own lock.
28. Duane Niemm	Washington Twp	586-781-5218	12/11/16 threatened to shut off power.
29. Dennis Stiles	St Clair Shores		DTE threatened to shut off power unless accept AMI
30. Douglas Moore	South Lyon	313-737-6651	Broke Lock and changed meter.
31. Judith Walkens	Novi	248-334-9339	DTE punished and installed AMI meter.
32. Paul Witmere	Warren		Water turned off
33. Karen Springer	Warren		Water turned off
34. Diane Colious	Warren		Water turned off

# Changes are coming to your insurance policy

Use your key for the next article

[Next: FIFA audited financial statements tell a very different story than sports pages](#)

February 7, 2016 4:27 PM MST

Due to the accumulation of fire related damage to homes and businesses from Smart Meter related malfunctions, Insurance Underwriting Offices across the country are contemplating new rules that will reduce the coverage available to you due to fire damage from a Smart Meter failure.

In the past, only two reasons existed for an insurance company to consider not paying for fire damage to your home or business, they were arson, and the fact the home or business sat vacant for at least 60 days or more before the fire.

Now a possible third reason can be added to that list, is the malfunction of a Smart Meter. What will most likely take place is that you will receive a notification from your Insurance Company telling you that a new limitation of coverage is now in force on your policy. When fire damage occurs to your home or business and the cause of the fire can be traced to a malfunction of your Smart Meter, then your company would not be held responsible for the financial loss.

The reason for this type of Draconian action on the part of the Insurance industry is simple, to save money. It appears that as the Smart Meters age, more problems are developing with them. When you couple this with the continued lack of co-operation from the Utility Companies, a reduction in the amount of coverage for an insurance policy is the only remaining answer.

The Utilities lack of co-operation can be reduced to two specific items. Number one would be the utilities continued action of removing the Meters from the loss site without giving the Insurance Company the chance to examine the Meter to determine the cause of the fire. It seems that as long as the Utility Companies continue in this practice, a cancellation in coverage from a Smart Meter fire is the end result. The reason that utility companies give for removal of the Meters is that the meters belong to the Utility Company which is a true statement, however, in the spirit of co-operation and concern for their customers, the Utility Companies should leave the Meters at the loss site until a complete examination of them can be done.

A second and perhaps more compelling reason for removal of the Smart Meters from the loss site is that the Utility Company does not want the Insurance Company to discover that most Meters have been operating at a higher temperature than usual. The normal ambient operating temperature for a new Smart Meter is 89 Degrees, the average operating temperature for the Analog Meters, which the Smart Meters replaced, is 85 degrees. The way in which the Utility Companies dealt with this problem was to drill two holes in the top of the Meter casings to let the heat out. Well, they let the heat out, but also let water and dust inside which made the malfunction of the Smart Meter almost a certainty.

If you have the opportunity, consult your state's Public Utility Commission and refuse to have the new Smart Meter installed, it may just save you money.

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## Electronic energy meters' false readings almost six times higher than actual energy consumption

**Date:** March 3, 2017

**Source:** University of Twente

**Summary:** Some electronic energy meters can give false readings that are up to 582% higher than actual energy consumption. The author of a new report estimates that potentially inaccurate meters have been installed in the meter cabinets of at least 750,000 Dutch households.

### FULL STORY



Test situation for this study.

*Credit: Image courtesy of University of Twente*

Some electronic energy meters can give false readings that are up to 582% higher than actual energy consumption. This emerged from a study carried out by the University of Twente (UT), in collaboration with the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS). Professor Frank Leferink of the UT estimates that potentially inaccurate meters have been installed in the meter cabinets of at least 750,000 Dutch households. The is published in the scientific journal *IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Magazine*.

In the Netherlands, traditional energy meters (kWh) -- the familiar energy meter with a rotating disc -- are being increasingly replaced by electronic variants (which are also known as 'static energy meters'). One well-known variant of the latter is the 'smart meter'. The Dutch government wants smart meters in every household by 2020.

### Actual consumption

For quite some time now, rumours have been rife about electronic energy meters that give excessively high readings in practice. This prompted Prof. Leferink to investigate electronic meters, to see whether they can indeed give false readings. Together with co-workers Cees Keyer and Anton Melentjev from AUAS, he tested

nine different electronic meters in this study. The meters in question were manufactured between 2004 and 2014. The meters were connected, via an electric switchboard, to a range of power-consuming appliances, such as energy saving light bulbs, heaters, LED bulbs and dimmers. The researchers then compared the actual consumption of the system with the electronic energy meter's readings.

### 582 percent

In the experiments (which were entirely reproducible), five of the nine meters gave readings that were much higher than the actual amount of power consumed. Indeed, in some setups, these were up to 582 percent higher. Conversely, two of the meters gave readings that were 30 percent lower than the actual amount of power consumed.

The greatest inaccuracies were seen when dimmers combined with energy saving light bulbs and LED bulbs were connected to the system. According to Mr Keyer (lecturer Electrical Engineering at the AUAS and PhD student at the UT) "OK, these were laboratory tests, but we deliberately avoided using exceptional conditions. For example, a dimmer and 50 bulbs, while an average household has 47 bulbs."

### Explanation

The inaccurate readings are attributed to the energy meter's design, together with the increasing use of modern (often energy-efficient) switching devices. Here, the electricity being consumed no longer has a perfect waveform, instead it acquires an erratic pattern. The designers of modern energy meters have not made sufficient allowance for switching devices of this kind.

When they dismantled the energy meters tested, the researchers found that the ones associated with excessively high readings contained a 'Rogowski Coil' while those associated with excessively low readings contained a 'Hall Sensor'. Frank Leferink (Professor of Electromagnetic Compatibility at the UT) points out that "The energy meters we tested meet all the legal requirements and are certified. These requirements, however, have not made sufficient allowance for modern switching devices."

### Consumers

Any consumers who do not trust their energy meter can have it tested by an 'Accredited inspection company'. However, if this inspection shows that the meter is functioning properly, then the consumer will have to cover the costs involved. Yet the standardized test does not make allowance for waveform-contaminating power-consuming appliances. As a result, according to the researchers, it is an unsuitable method for detecting false meter readings. Prof. Leferink and Mr Keyer advise any consumers who doubt their meter readings to contact their supplier, who then will pass the complaint on to the power grid operator.

### Story Source:

Materials provided by **University of Twente**. *Note: Content may be edited for style and length.*

### Journal Reference:

1. Frank Leferink, Cees Keyer, Anton Melentjev. **Static energy meter errors caused by conducted electromagnetic interference**. *IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Magazine*, 2016; 5 (4): 49 DOI: 10.1109/MEMC.2016.7866234

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